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TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BERKSHIRE.

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TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BERKSHIRE;

WITH

SOME PRELIMINARY REMARKS AS TO ITS EARLY HISTORY, ANTIQUITIES, WORTHIES, ETC.

TRANSFERRED TO
Metropolitan Public Collections

SECOND EDITION,

EDITED AND REVISED BY

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PREFACE.

TEN years ago the first edition of this work appeared. I was compiled by the learned Editor of the "County Families of England," Mr. Edward Walford. Another edition being required, the publisher has placed the work in my hands for the revision which the lapse of a decade has rendered necessary.

I have endeavoured to follow in the footsteps of my predecessor by road and rail and river-bank, and have in no way altered the general arrangement of the work. A large amount of additional historical and antiquarian information has been added, which has been principally amassed by the active labours of the Berks Archeological Society, and of the Newbury and Maidenhead Field Clubs. Colonel Cooper King's "History of Berkshire" has appeared since the first edition of this work was published, and his researches have added much to the readily accessible sources of information with regard to the annals of the Royal County. A new edition of "Kelly's

Post Office Directory of Berkshire " has also furnished me with information relating to modern events and changes. The populations of the municipal boroughs given are those of the Census of 1891, all others are from the 1881 Census, the returns of the last Census not being yet available.

P. H. DITCHFIELD.

Barkham Rectory,
February, 1892.

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TOURIST'S GUIDE

TO

BERKSHIRE.

GENERAL DESCRIPTION.

BERKSHIRE, or as the name is written by Leland* and the earlier topographers, Bark-shire, differs from the other counties of England in one respect at least, in being not merely in time past, but still after the lapse of eight centuries, the "royal county." Hence, although it is by no means large in extent, and in spite of the fact that a large district of its south-east parts was till lately a forest, it includes a very large number of the seats and parks of noblemen and country gentlemen. It is very varied in its soil and general features, and the large number of its rivers has helped from an early age to civilize and enrich its inhabitants by giving facilities of access to neighbouring towns and markets. Though it includes no cathedral city within its limits, it is fairly rich in objects and places of ancient interest, the great abbeys of Abingdon and Reading each having had a "mitred" abbot, whilst the castle of Windsor, for eight centuries, has furnished it with royal and princely residents; and the castles of Donnington, Newbury, and Wallingford have each helped to connect the name of Berkshire with the history of our country at large, and especially with that of the Great Rebellion.

The county was called by the mediæval Latin writers "Bercheria," and by the Saxons, Berroc-scyre, a name which Asser Menevensis derives from "Berroc," a certain wood in which the box grew plentifully; while others

* "Itinerary," vol. ii., p. 2. It is still usually pronounced 'Barkshire."

derived it from a certain dis-*barked* oak at which the inhabitants of the forest district used to meet in order to consult on matters of public interest. (Gough's "Camden's Britannia.") Whatever may have been its original meaning, however, its name would seem to form part of the territory of the Bi-*broci*, who are mentioned by Cæsar ("De Bell. Gall." v. 21) as a tribe in Britannia, for "bark," "berc," and "broc" are doubtless radically the same.

In the Saxon Chronicle the name of the county is written Bearuscire and Barroscire, which gradually became Barocscire, and eventually Bercscire. In the ninth century it was known as Berocscire, and in the Domesday Book it is written Berroches-scire, Berroche-scire, and Berchscire.

Berkshire is one of the southern midland counties, and is mostly included within the valley of the Thames. The Thames forms its N. and E. boundary, separating it from the counties of Gloucester, Oxford, and Buckinghamshire; on the W. it is bounded by Wiltshire, on the S. by Hampshire, and on the S.E. by Surrey. According to the "Encyclopædia Britannica," the county contains 19 hundreds, 6 municipal boroughs, and 142 parishes, besides 14 others only partially included in its area. One or two portions of other counties were formerly included in its area; but these have been added to Berkshire by Act of Parliament.

According to Ashmole, in 1719, Berkshire contained 22 hundreds, 12 market-towns, 671 villages and hamlets, of which 140 were parochial, and 62 were vicarages, about 16,906 houses, and about 84,530 inhabitants.

The following is a list of the hundreds, with the parishes contained in each:

Hundred of Beynhurst—Bisham, Bray, Hurley, Remenham, Shottesbrooke, and White Waltham.

Hundred of Charlton—Barkham, Broad Hinton, Earley, Finchampstead, Hartley, Dummer, Shinfield, Swallowfield (part of), and Whistley-in-Hurst.

Hundred of Compton—Aldworth, Catmore, Chilton, Compton or Compton Parva, East Ilsley or Market Ilsley, Farnborough or Farmborough, and West Ilsley.

Hundred of Cookham—Binfield, Cookham, and Sunninghill.

Hundred of Faircross—Bagley Wood, Beedon, Boxford, Brightwaltham, Brimpton, Chandlings Farm, Chieveley, Frilsham, Greenham, Hampstead Norris, Leckhampstead, Midgham, Peasemore, Sandleford, Shaw-cum-Donnington,

Speen, Stanford Dingley, Wasing, Welford, Winterbourn, and Yattendon.

Hundred of Faringdon—Great Coxwell, Great Faringdon (part of), and Little Coxwell.

Hundred of Ganfield—Buckland, Charney, Hatford, Hinton Waldrist, Longworth, Pusey, Shellingford, and Stanford in the Vale.

Hundred of Hormer—Besselsleigh, Cholsall, Cumnor, Kennington, Northcourt, North Hinksey, Radley, St. Helen (Abingdon), Sandford, Seacourt, Shippon, South Hinksey, Sunningwell, Thrupp and Wick, Wootton, and Wytham.

Hundred of Kintbury Eagle—Avington, Chaddleworth, Chilton Foliatt (part of), East Challow, East Shefford, Enborne, Fawley, Hampstead Marshall, Hungerford, Inkpen, Kintbury, Letcombe Basset, Letcombe Regis, Shalbourne (part of), West Challow, West Shefford, and West Woodhay.

Hundred of Lambourne—Blagrave, East Garston, Eastbury and Bockhamptom, Hadley, and Lambourne.

Hundred of Moreton—Allhallows (Wallingford), Ashhamstead, Aston Terrold, Aston Upthorpe, Basildon, Brightwell, Clapcot, Didcot or Dudcott, East Hagbourne, Harwell, Moulsford, North Moreton, Sotwell, South Moreton, Streatley, Upton with Nottingham Fee, and West Hagbourne.

Hundred of Ock—Appleford, Appleton and Eaton, Denchworth (part of), Draycot Moor, Drayton, Frilford, Fyfield, Garford, Goosey, Kingston-Bagpuize, Little Wittenham, Long Wittenham, Lyford, Marcham, Milton, Steventon, Sutton Courtney, Sutton Wick, and Tubney.

Hundred of Reading—Beenham Vallence, Blewberry, Bucklebury, Cholsey, Graizeley or Grasley, Pangbourn, St. Giles (Reading), St. Lawrence (Reading), St. Mary (Reading), Southcot, Sulhampstead Abbots, Swallowfield (part of), Thatcham, Tilehurst, and Whitley.

Hundred of Ripplesmere—Clewer, Dedworth, Easthampstead, Old Windsor, and Winkfield with Ascot.

Hundred of Shrivenhan—Ashbury, Balking, Beckett, Bourton, Buscot, Coleshill, Compton Beauchamp, Eaton, Hastings, Fernham, Great Faringdon (part of), Idstone, Kingston Lisle with Fawler, Kingstone, Winslow, Longcot, Odstone, Shrivenham, Uffington, Watchfield, and Woolstone.

Hundred of Sonning—Arborfield, Newland, Ruscombe,

Sandhurst, Sonningtown, Winnersh, Wokingham, and Wooley with Sandford.

Hundred of Theale—Aldermaston, Bradfield, Burghfield, Englefield, Padworth, Purley, Stratfield Mortimer, Sulham, Sulhampstead Bannister, Tidmarsh, Ufton or Ufton Nervet, Wokefield, and Woolhampton.

Hundred of Wantage—Ardington, Charlton, Childrey, Denchworth (part of), East Hanney, East Hendred, East Lockinge, Grove, Sparsholt, Wantage, West Hanney, West Hendred, and West Lockinge.

Hundred of Wargrave—Waltham St. Lawrence, Warfield, and Wargrave.

The six ancient municipal boroughs are—Abingdon (St. Helen and St. Nicholas), Maidenhead, Newbury, New Windsor, Reading (St. Giles, St. Lawrence, and St. Mary), and Wallingford (Allhallows, St. Leonard, St. Mary-le-More, St. Peter and Wallingford Castle Precinct. Wokingham received its municipal charter in 1885.

The following are the other principal market towns: Faringdon, Hungerford, Lambourne and Wantage.

Berkshire used formerly to be in the Diocese of Salisbury, but was transferred to that of Oxford in 1836. It forms a single archdeaconry, and is divided into nine rural deaneries, those of Abingdon, Bradfield, Maidenhead, Newbury, Reading, Sonning, the Vale of White Horse, Wallingford and Wantage. It formerly returned eight members to Parliament, namely three for the county, two for Reading, and one each for Abingdon, Wallingford and Windsor; but under the provisions of the Redistribution of Seats Act, 1885, three divisions of the county were formed; the Northern, or Abingdon division; the Southern, or Newbury division; and the Eastern, or Wokingham division; each of which returns one member. The towns of Abingdon and Wallingford were disfranchised, and Reading lost one member. The county is included in the Oxford Circuit, and the assizes are now held in Reading only. The assizes and quarter sessions were formerly held alternately at Reading and at Abingdon, where there was a gaol; but the administration of justice is now centralized at the county town, and Abingdon Gaol has been abolished since about 1865.

The county supplies the title of Earl of Berkshire to the Howards, Earls also of Suffolk; that of Viscount Uffington to the Earl of Craven; that of Viscount Wallingford to the

Earls of Banbury (now dormant); that of Baron Windsor to the Clives; that of Earl of Windsor to the Marquis of Bute; and that of Earl of Abingdon to the Berties. The county also gave the titles of Baron Astley of Reading (1648), and Lord Cadogan of Reading (1716).

Early History.

The history of Berkshire, as a county, may be summed up in a few lines. It comprehended a principality inhabited by the powerful Celtic family of the Segontiaci, and by the Atrebates, a tribe of the Belgæ mentioned by Cæsar, who doubtless migrated into these parts from Gaul. Under the Romans it formed a part of Britannia Prima, and during the Saxon Heptarchy it was included in the kingdom of the West Saxons, and it thus continued till the whole island was incorporated into one sovereignty, and named England. When Alfred divided the country into shires, hundreds, and parishes, it obtained the above-mentioned name of Berocscire,* which at a later date was gradually abridged into its present designation.

The Roman station of *Spinæ* was founded on the present site of Speen Hill, about 1½m. westward of Newbury. Of other Roman stations, *Bibracte* is fixed by some antiquaries at Bray,† and *Pontes* at Staines or Datchet; but these assertions are disputed. *Calleva* is identical with Silchester, in Hampshire. It was formerly a Celtic town inhabited by the Atrebates, and when the Romans captured it, they built their strong stone walls, which have defied the lapse of time, along the ancient Celtic earthworks. Recent excavations conducted by the Society of Antiquaries have brought to light many interesting Roman relics which are now deposited in the Reading Museum. Silchester was by far the most important Roman city in the South of England, and to it all the Roman roads are directed.

Berkshire still retains some traces of the Roman occupation of this island in two Roman roads which ran across it, the one between London, Silchester and thence to Sarum or Salisbury, and the other between Aquæ Solis, or Bath, and Silchester running through Speen, the ancient Spinæ,

* The word *scire* or *shire*=a division; and *Beroc* was the name of the extensive wood on the banks of the Loddon.

† Other writers have placed it at Wickham Bushes, in the parish of Easthampstead.

close to Newbury. There are traces also of the Ickenield Way, which proceeded from the East Coast near Yarmouth to Cornwall; passing the Thames at Streatley it is called the "Ridgeway," and runs along the high downs above Cuckhamsley, the Whitehorse Hill, Ilsley, and Aston Terrold. This road is of British origin, though adopted and used by the Roman conquerors.

British and Roman camps, too, are to be found on the Uffington and Letcombe Downs, and at Little Coxwell, near Faringdon, and others near Easthampstead, at Wittenham near Wallingford, at Perborough, Grimsbury, on Maidenhead Thicket, and at Ashbury near Lambourne; also at Bussock, Borough Hill, and Oareborough near Newbury. Many barrows also, British or Danish, are to be seen scattered about the chalk hills on the north of the Lambourne. Several of these have been opened by the late Mr. E. Martyn-Atkins and the Rev. Canon Greenwell, and the remarkable collection of urns and bronze and stone weapons which they have yielded is now deposited in the British Museum. A Roman villa has been discovered at Maidenhead by Mr. J. Rutland, who also opened a Saxon barrow near Taplow, and found several interesting relics which are in the British Museum. The curious tomb commonly known as Wayland Smith's Cave is probably that of a British chieftain, though some regard it as that of a Danish king or prince who was slain at the battle of Æscendune.

The vallum which once surrounded Wallingford is of Roman origin, and the large number of Roman coins which have been discovered there prove it to have been a Roman station of importance.

When the tide of Saxon invasion rolled over our fair England, Berkshire was possessed by the West Saxons, and thus formed part of the important kingdom of Wessex. It soon became the battle-field of opposing tribes. Offa, King of Mercia (A.D. 756–796) wrested that portion which borders on the Thames from King Kinewulf. But in the time of Egbert (A.D. 800) Wessex recovered its territory, and established its superiority over the other kingdoms of the Saxon Octarchy, its ruler, Egbert, becoming the first Bretwalda, or Monarch of England. In the time of Ethelred I. the brother of Alfred the Great, a Berkshire hero born at Wantage, came the black raven of the Danes, and on the chalk hills many a fierce fight was fought out between the

old and new invaders. At length, after the Danes had captured Reading, and were moving westward to ravage the whole county, Ethelred and his immortal brother Alfred drew up their Saxons at Æscendune (the Ash-tree Hill), slew the Danish king Bægsieg, and put his yellow-haired warriors to fight. This great battle checked the conquering career of the Danes, who, though they made several incursions into the county, and set on fire Reading and Wallingford, gained no permanent footing in its valleys.

The exact site of this victory has been vigorously disputed, but it is probably to be identified with Ashdown near Lambourne, where the White Horse cut out upon the adjoining hill, overlooking Uffington, is supposed to commemorate it.

"England being united under King Alfred, another division was made, and when the office of High Sheriff or Vice Comes was instituted, this and the adjoining county of Oxford were put under the same person."—*Ashmole.*

In the war with the Danes during the reign of Ethelred II., Berkshire was again laid waste by fire and sword; the barbarous invaders burnt Reading, Wallingford, and other places in 1006. At the time of the Norman invasion, the Conqueror received at Wallingford the submission of the Archbishop Stigand and the principal barons before he marched to London. One of his followers, Robert D'Oyley, built a strong castle at Wallingford. In the civil war consequent on the usurpation of Stephen, Berkshire was again the seat of war. Brian Fitzcount, who had come by marriage into possession of Wallingford Castle, early took the side of the Empress Maud, and his castle afforded her a secure retreat when she fled from Oxford. Faringdon Castle, which was erected by Robert Earl of Gloucester, natural brother of the Empress, was taken by Stephen, and so completely demolished that not a vestige of it now remains. When John rebelled against his brother Richard I., he seized Wallingford and Windsor Castles, but they were taken from him again by the barons in the king's interest, and placed in the hands of the queen dowager. The strength of these two fortresses rendered them important as military stations in the troubles which took place during the latter part of the reign of King John, and also during the reign of Henry III.

In 1263, Windsor Castle was besieged and captured by the great Simon de Montfort. Radcot Bridge wasthe scene of

the defeat of Vere Earl of Oxford in the reign of Richard II. (A.D. 1389). During the troubles between Charles and his Parliament, two battles were fought near Newbury. Donnington Castle, which was held for the king, suffered so much from the Roundheads that only a gateway and two towers remain. In 1643, Reading was taken after a siege by the Parliamentary forces, and the Royalists were driven almost wholly out of the county, with the exception of Wallingford and one or two smaller places which they contrived to hold in their hands. No county in England felt the weight of the great civil war more heavily than Berkshire. Parties were pretty evenly balanced here, but the king had at first the advantage of position.

Berkshire has returned three members to Parliament since the first Reform Bill of 1832, having previously had only two from 1296. Among its distinguished M.P.'s have been the first Lord Bolingbroke, the celebrated Secretary of State under Queen Anne, who sat for the county from 1710 till he was raised to the Peerage. John Elwes, the well-known miser, sat as M.P. for Berkshire from 1771 to 1784. Mr. Henry J. Pye, the poet-laureate, sat from 1784 to 1790. The late Mr. John Walter, of the *Times*, from 1832 to 1837. The present Mr. John Walter was member for the county for 35 years.

Antiquities, &c.

Dividing these into *Celtic*, *Roman*, *Saxon*, and *Mediæval* we shall find sufficient to interest the most rigid archæologist. The "Blowing Stone" at Kingston Lisle was probably used by the British to warn the countryside of a coming foe; the "Seven Barrows" and "Wayland Smith's Cave" are perhaps Celtic memorials. The "Dragon Hill" is also supposed to be a British mound. Of the Romans the vestiges are numerous; there are the great roads from Glevum (Gloucester) to Londinium, and the Ickenield Street across the downs; the site of the Roman station of Spinæ; the vallum which encloses Wallingford; and the camps of Uffington Castle, Letcombe Castle, Cæsar's Camp on Bagshot Heath, and Hardwell Camp, near Didcot. The Romans also adopted the British camps of Cherbury and Swindon Hills.

The circular camps of Alfred's Castle and Badbury Hill are perhaps Saxon. The White Horse, cut out upon the

downs below Uffington Castle, is also probably a Saxon memorial.

Mediæval.—With the exception of Windsor, the Berkshire *Castles* have mostly disappeared; but there are still to be seen fragments at Wallingford and at Donnington. Of the old *Manor Houses* the most interesting are: Appleton, East Hendred, Ockwells, Upton Court, Sutton Courtenay, and Wytham. There is a fine Elizabethan house at Shaw, built by Sir Thomas Dolman, a wealthy clothier of Newbury.

Before the dissolution of monasteries, Berkshire could boast of many *Religious Houses*, of which the chief were the Benedictine Abbeys of Reading and Abingdon, and the Priory of Hurley; Ploughley and Sandleford Priories of the Augustine Monks; the Knights of St. John had monasteries at Brimpton and Greenham, and the Franciscan Friars were established at Reading and Donnington. In the last century, in spite of the penal laws, there were private chapels, with hiding-places for priests, at the houses of the Eystons at Hendred, the Throckmortons at Buckland, and the Englefields at Englefield.

The finest and oldest church in the county is that of *Avington*, which, like *Padworth*, is Norman. *Uffington* Church is completely E.E., *Shottesbrooke* Dec., and *St. George's Chapel*, at Windsor, Perp. Ancient round towers will be found at *Great Shefford* and *Wilford; Tidmarsh* has a half-hexagonal chancel; *Faringdon, Wantage, Bisham* and *Sonning* are architecturally important. Stalls, or sedilia, are extant at Faringdon, Welford, Uffington, Sparsholt, and Warfield.

A complete history of the antiquities of Berkshire was published by Elias Ashmole, Esq., in 3 vols., in 1719. It is now scarce and valuable.

A history of this county has been recently written by Lieut.-Col. Cooper King, and published in 1887.

Worthies of Berkshire.

Edward III. and Henry VI. were b. at Windsor, besides other less illustrious royal personages; Fenton the poet d. at East Hampstead; Miss Mary Russell Mitford was long a resident at Three Mile Cross, and d. at Swallowfield; Binfield was the early home of Pope, the poet; Hearne, the

erudite antiquary, was b. at White Waltham; the learned jurist Baron Stowell d. at Earley Court, which was also the residence of Lord Sidmouth, the premier; Archbishop Laud, John Blagrave, the mathematician (1585), Judge Talfourd, the author of 'Ion,' Maria Edgworth, were natives of Reading; Alfred the Great, King of the Saxons, was b. at Wantage, and so was Bishop Butler, the learned author of the 'Analogy'; Ufton Court was the house of Arabella Fermor, the friend of Pope; Carte the historian lived for some time at Yattendon, where his History of England was chiefly written, and d. at Caldecote House, Abingdon. He is buried at Yattendon. St. Edmund (Rich), Archbishop of Canterbury, Charles Abbot, Lord Colchester, and Moore the dramatist, were natives of Abingdon; Bishop Jewell was curate of Sunningwell, from whose church tower Roger Bacon made his astronomical observations; Amy Robsart, Lady Dudley, as every reader of Sir Walter Scott knows, is said to have been murdered at Cumnor Hall; Dr. Fell, Dean of Christ Church, Oxford, well known by a popular quatrain, was b. at Longworth; and Queen Elizabeth, while Princess, was some time imprisoned at Bisham Abbey; Thomas Teesdale, a native of Stanford Dingley, was co-founder of Pembroke College, Oxford, the other being the Rev. Richard Wightwick, Rector of East Ilsley; Dr. John Harmar, Regius Professor of Greek in the University of Oxford from 1585 to 1590, and Warden of Winchester College 1596, was b. at Newbury; also Dr. Thomas Ryde, Head Master of Winchester School 1552, author of several theological treatises, was a native of Newbury. Dr. Twisse, a celebrated Nonconformist divine, was b. at Speenhamland, adjoining Newbury, and Francis Baily, the astronomer, was a native of Newbury. Bolingbroke, Mrs. Montagu, Sir Benjamin Rudyard, and "Jack of Newbury," were also either natives or residents of Berkshire. It is said that the poet Chaucer is to be added to the above list, but the fact is doubtful. Being attached to the court of John of Gaunt he would often come to Reading, and his poem called "The Dream" describes the wedding of his patron with Blanche of Lancaster, celebrated within the walls of Reading Abbey.

Seats, &c.

Partly on account of the healthiness of its climate, partly of its diversity of scenery, the excellence of its roads, and the abundance of water carriage, combined with its proximity to the great metropolis, Berkshire abounds, as stated above, more than almost any other county, excepting perhaps Surrey, in seats of the landed gentry. Perhaps no other district of the same size contains an equal number of "county families" in proportion to its area. Foremost among these stands, of course, the royal castle of Windsor, the favourite residence of almost every sovereign from the days of the Conqueror to those of Victoria. We may also mention specially, Shaw House, near Newbury, the seat of the Eyres; Beckett House, near Shrivenham, of Viscount Barrington; Coleshill Park, near Faringdon, of the Earl of Radnor; Wytham Abbey, near Oxford, of the Earl of Abingdon; Englefield House, near Reading, of Mr. R. Benyon; Bearwood, near Wokingham, of Mr. J. Walter; Hampstead Marshall, near Newbury, and Ashdown Park, near Lambourne, of Lord Craven; Aldermaston House, of Mr. Higford Higford; Easthampstead Park, near Bracknell, of the Marquis of Downshire; Pusey House, of Mr. S. B. Pusey; Lockinge House, near Wantage, of Lord Wantage. Mr. Walter's mansion of Bearwood, though newly built, "is an instance of a baronial residence seldom equalled in extent and admirable disposition."—*Encyc. Brit.*

Besides the royal domain at Windsor, there are deer parks at Hall Place (Sir G. A. Clayton-East), Calcot Park (Mr. J. H. Blagrave), Aldermaston (Mr. Higford Higford), Kingston-Bagpuize (Mr. J. Blandy Jenkins), Ashdown (Lord Craven), Buckland (Sir N. W. Throckmorton), Welford (Mr. G. B. Eyre), East Hendred (Mr. J. Allin), Woolley (Mr. P. Wroughton), and Sunninghill (General Crutchley). The deer at Sunninghill Park are reduced to the lowest possible standard, a number just sufficient to make the estate tithe free according to Act of Parliament.

Ashmole prints a list of twenty-four Berkshire Loyalists who "compounded for their estates" in 1655. The largest is Sir George Stonehouse of Radley (1460*l.*), and the next is Richard Neville of Billingbear (887*l.*).

It is quaintly remarked by Fuller in his day that "the

lands of Berkshire are very skittish and apt to cast their owners," and his saying has held true to the present time. Except the Eystons of East Hendred, no family has held lands within the county in direct male descent for 300 years. The Hungerfords, Fettiplaces, Besils, De La Beches and Englefields are all extinct; the last male Pusey died more than a century ago, and the Pusey estates are owned by the Bouveries. Lord Braybrooke still owns some Neville property, but he is a Neville only by adoption of the name. The Cravens are probably the second oldest family in Berkshire, having been seated here now for about 250 years.

The estates of the gentry are for the most part small as compared with other counties, but the number of freeholders is very large. At the commencement of the present century, Dr. Mavor states that the number of yeomen farming their own estates was larger than any other county of the same size; and in proof of their independence he quotes a saying of William Pitt, that "no minister of this country could command ten votes in Berkshire."

Berkshire is hunted by four packs of hounds. The "countries" are the Old Berkshire, the Craven, and the South Berks. The eastern end of the county, together with parts of Surrey and Hants, is hunted by Mr. Garth. In addition to these there are the Queen's stag-hounds (kennels at Ascot) and several packs of harriers.

The largest landowners in Berkshire, according to the modern Domesday, are: the Earl of Abingdon, 7738 acres; Mr. Richard Benyon, 10,129; Sir Robert Burdett, 6541; the Earl of Craven, 19,225; the Crown, 10,203; Charles Eyre, Esq., 5737; Lord Wantage, 20,528; C. Morrison, Esq., 6987; S. E. B. Pusey, Esq., 5022; W. H. Hartley, Esq., 4952; the Earl of Radnor, 4394; Sir George Bowyer, 4451; Lord Braybrooke, 3590; and Lord Barrington, 3477. A very large acreage in this county also belongs to the Oxford Colleges, especially Oriel, Queen's, St. John's, and Magdalen.

Surface, Soil, &c.

In outline Berkshire somewhat resembles a shoe with a very low instep. Quaint old Fuller likens it in shape to a lute. Its staple commodities are wheat, barley, and other species of corn. Barley is manufactured into malt in the

neighbourhood of Newbury in considerable quantities, equal to any part of the kingdom. As a whole the county is of average fertility.

At the commencement of the present century the open and common fields of Berkshire were estimated at half the extent of the county; and the proportion of waste land was also very great. It is now estimated that more than half of the acreage of the county is meadow-land, on account of the depression of agriculture and the low price of corn, and about one-third arable, whilst one-tenth is occupied as grazing land, parks, and sheep-walks.

Nearly the whole southern district of the county, which marches along the Hampshire border, from Ascot to Mortimer, and even beyond, is sandy and barren, and largely covered by heath. A considerable portion is not fit for arable purposes; the Scotch fir and pine alone flourish here.

The eastern part, about Windsor Forest, is largely devoted to the breeding of cattle and horses, and sends up quantities of butter and milk to the London market. The farms in this part are mostly small, and still occupied by yeomen of the middle class.

In the Vale of the White Horse are some of the most fertile lands in England. The western part of the vale is chiefly covered with rich pastures, the soil being a good loam on a sound and dry subsoil. The varieties of the soil throughout the various districts are well and minutely described in the latest edition of Kelly's "Berkshire."

"The whole of the south part of the county was once occupied by the great forest of Windsor, which extended in one direction into Buckinghamshire, and in another into Surrey as far as Chertsey, Cobham, and even Guildford, and reached westward to Hungerford along the Vale of the Kennet. This vale was disafforested by charter in 1226, and a considerable part of Windsor Forest is now in a state of cultivation, an Act having been passed for its enclosure in the year 1813.* A great part of Bagshot Heath also was within the boundaries of the forest."—Lysons' *Magna Britannia.*

The southern and eastern parts of the county, having been part and parcel of the royal Forest of Windsor, abound in woodland, in which oaks, elms, beech, ash, and alder prevail. Leland, in his "Itinerary," mentions "a

* The old "forestal" rights then abolished were very burdensome, and prejudicial to the progress of agriculture.

great wharfeage of timbre and fier wood" at the west end of the bridge (at Maidenhead, or Maidenhithe); and "this wood," he adds, "cummith out of Barkshir and the great woddis of the foreste of Windlesore and the great Frithe," now Cookham Dean.

An admirable survey of the general features and characteristic scenery of Berkshire is furnished by a Quarterly Reviewer. He speaks of the county as naturally divided into four districts: of these the *Northern* is the Vale of the White Horse, and the *Southern* the Vale of the Kennet. Each of these two vales runs E. and W. Between them is the *Hill District*, a range of lofty downs of chalk, in continuation of those of Wiltshire, which traverses the county also from E. to W., from Lambourne and Ashdown to Streatley, where the Thames breaks through the barrier. The chalk range then crosses the southern limit of Oxfordshire, and at Wargrave reappears in Berkshire, until terminating on the river bank at Maidenhead. A fourth is the *Forest District*, included between the Blackwater and the Thames, and comprising the towns of Windsor and Wokingham, Windsor Forest, Ascot Heath, and the neighbouring villages.

"Each of these four districts has its distinct characteristics, and each has minor divisions of its own. Thus the Vale of the White Horse comprises on its N. side a low range of secondary hills, which run along the bank of the Thames from Faringdon to Radley, and include Cumnor and Bagley Wood. These are sandhills, while the soil of the vale proper is for the most part a strong gray loam mixed with a large quantity of vegetable mould.

"The Hill District includes the high chalk range, of which the White Horse Hill and Cuckhamsley Hill (or Scuchamore Knob) are the highest points. Towards the N. the range is very bold, and the descent into the vale steep, and the hills are indented with a number of little "coombs" or meadows clothed with copse, while towards the S. it melts gradually away into the Vale of the Kennet. There is very little soil over the chalk on the higher part of the range, which is still used chiefly for sheep-walks.

"The Vale of the Kennet comprises the low lands which lie along its banks, and include clays, gravels, and a large and deep bed of peat, and the strip of wild and high sandy common land which runs along the extreme S. boundary of the county.

"The Forest District comprises the small outlying piece of the chalk range which has strayed back over the Thames at Wargrave and leaves it at Maidenhead, and the Forest proper, which, however, includes towns and flourishing hamlets, and many hundred acres of good enclosed land from Windsor to the Loddon. Formerly the forest stretched right away up the Vale of Kennet to Hungerford, some forty miles as the crow flies."—*Quarterly Review*, ccii.

"This county may be valued rather for its pleasant situation than its fertility, the air being generally healthy even in the lowest vales, which may be judged to be the reason of the high price which the land of this county bears."—*Ashmole.*

It is remarked in the *Quarterly Review* that no manufacture of importance has flourished in this county since the great civil wars ruined the cloth trade.

Geology, &c.

Berkshire as a county is not very interesting to the geologist, comprising as it does no singularities of stratification. It has no boulders of gneiss or rock, no formations of granite or coal or slate to boast of, and scarcely any mineral treasures have been found throughout its limits. The solid chalk which underlies the whole area, and visibly extends across its western and north-western parts, is simply part of the long range of hills which stretches out of Wiltshire into Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire. Its highest parts are to be found in the chalk hills which rise about Basildon and Streatley on the Thames between Reading and Wallingford, and extend in a westerly and north-westerly direction into Wiltshire, forming the central part of the range of the downs about Marlborough in that county and the Chiltern Hills in Buckinghamshire. A little to the south-east of Wantage these hills rise to 850 feet above the level of the sea, and even to 890 at the White Horse Hill on the extreme western border of the county. On the N. of this high range is the rich Vale of the White Horse, which is watered by the Ock, and sinks away gradually to the E. in the direction of Abingdon. On the southern slope of this range, the chalk gradually dies away into a mixture of sand and gravel and red clay. Along the course of the Kennet, below Newbury and

Reading, are beds of peat, in which lie embedded the remains of a prehistoric forest, in which the cones of pines and hazel-nuts have been found. Along the southern border, especially of the east part, the predominating soil is a sand which is almost useless for tillage.

The northern declivity of the range is steeper and more abrupt than the southern. At the W. end spread extensive sheep-walks, covered with a fine short turf, while the E. end is partially cultivated as arable land. A smaller range of hills bounds the Thames, and between the two ranges sweeps the interesting Vale of the White Horse.

The chalk rises again to the surface at Maidenhead, Cookham, and Windsor, dips under the forest, and reappears in the North of Hampshire. The clay of the forest does not differ from the London clay, which underlies the whole Valley of the Thames.

There is a little limestone about Faringdon, which contains fossil shells of marine animals; and some freestone was discovered early in the present century in the parish of Burghfield, but it proved to be too soft in texture to be made serviceable for use in building. Scattered over the downs in the west part of the county are a number of large isolated boulders, which as they lie upon the grass look at a distance like sheep, and are called by the peasants the "Grey Wethers"; they are very hard—in fact, too hard to be worked with a tool.

Near the Kennet, a short distance west from Reading, is Catesgrove Hill, a curious structure of marine shells, mostly oysters, on a bed of greensand, which overlies a rock of chalk. In the sand are found the bones and teeth of fish, thus proving that there was a time when the Valley of the Thames was an estuary of the sea.

Chalybeate springs have been found at different times near Luckley in the parish of Wokingham, at Cumnor, near Abingdon, and at Winkfield and Sunninghill near Windsor. The latter was for a short time in some repute, but it soon passed out of fashion, though a well or pump was built for the use of visitors.

Flora, Climate, &c.

In the "New and Complete British Traveller" is a list of the curious plants found in this county. It includes Wood-Betony and Crane's-Bill (Windsor Forest), Ground-

Pine (Vale of the White Horse), Hedge-Mustard (Wokingham), Cat-Mint (banks of the Thames), Mugwort (Wantage), Penny-Royal (near the Lambourne), Horse-Mint (Hungerford), and Hedge-Hyssop (banks of the Ock).

Extensive woodlands of vigorous oak, elm, ash, and beech cover the S. and E. sides of the county, remnants of that vast Royal Forest of Windsor, which once extended into Bucks and Surrey and Wilts, but was disforested in 1226. There are still bits of picturesque forest scenery on the Berkshire borders which will delight the artist and inspire the poet. Shelley composed much of his 'Alastor' in these shady and grassy glades.

The *climate* of the county is one of the healthiest in England. The chalk hills in the W. are remarkable for the bracing and invigorating properties of their air. Delicate constitutions, on the other hand, may resort to the sheltered vales, enlivened and purified by freshly rippling streams, which, rising in the chalk, are notably sweet and limpid. The *soil* is extremely varied. The principal hills are composed of chalk; the valleys of different sorts of loam, in which clay predominates, with gravel and sand upon it rising into small elevations. In the rich argillaceous soil of the valleys, especially the Vale of the White Horse, there are large and prosperous farms, with good corn land and fertile pastures attached to them. The next important agricultural district is the Vale of Kennet; its soil is well adapted to the growth of corn, and its inferiority in natural fertility is compensated for by superior care in cultivation. Along the Kennet and the Thames extend good fat meadows, which produce much herbage, sometimes made into hay, and at other times depastured with cattle. Under the meadows, along part of the Kennet, near Newbury, there is a species of peat, which is extensively reduced to ashes by burning, and applied as a top-dressing to clover and artificial grasses.

"The number of rich proprietors who hold land to some extent in their own hands is considerable. They employ intelligent bailiffs, and improved modes of cultivation are readily tried by them. The most perfect machines and implements may be found on their farms, and every new invention finds some person ready to give it a trial. The system generally adopted throughout the county by intelligent farmers is only a modification of the ancient triennial rotations. The basis is a clean fallow, for which

turnips are substituted on the light soils; then two or three crops of corn, with an alternation of clover, tares, or beans between them, which are considered as less exhausting.

"There are in Berkshire a great many small proprietors, or yeomen, who cultivate their own farms, consisting of forty, fifty, or eighty acres. They live frugally, and therefore the times do not affect them much; but they have no inclination to try new schemes—the old methods satisfy them, and if they can live and pay their way they are contented. In the richer soils the farms vary from 100 to 400 acres; while in the poor lands are some farms of 1000 acres."—*Beauties of England and Wales* (1801).

These remarks are true also of the present day, except that "bad times" have severely tried the old Berkshire yeomen; and many of them have been ruined, and been forced to leave the lands their fathers tilled in the times of agricultural prosperity.

The chief agricultural produce of Berkshire consists of oats, wheat, and beans; and the country enjoys much celebrity for its dairies.

There are considerable market grounds near Reading, where onions and asparagus are grown in great perfection. In the Vale of the White Horse are a few good orchards, and some cherry orchards blossom around Wantage. At Reading, many acres are covered with Messrs. Sutton's beds of flowers for seeds, which are very attractive in spring.

No peculiar breed of cattle is indigenous to Berkshire, and those generally met with are imported from Devonshire, Herefordshire, and Oxfordshire. The Glamorganshire, Durham short-horned, and Alderney cows have also been introduced. A few fat cattle are sent to London, and in the eastern part of the county many calves are reared. Berkshire, however, like Hampshire, is famous for its pigs. They are not of a very large size, but the bone is small, and they fatten at an early age and on little food. The true Berkshire breed is black with white spots, but some are quite white; their snouts are short, jowls thick, and their ears stand up. A mixed breed, produced by crossing the Berkshire with the Neapolitan breeds, possesses improved qualities. The Berkshire sheep belong to an improved breed produced by crosses from the old sheep and the Leicester, and by the South Down and Hampshire

Down, the latter of which are now the favourite breeds. Of late the Shropshire Down have been introduced.

Among the curious birds that have been met with in Berkshire may be mentioned a golden eagle, shot in Windsor Great Park in 1880; a red shank, shot at Hawthorn Hill in 1881; and also a hoopoe and a spotted woodpecker, seen at the latter place many years ago.

Timber is very abundant in the Royal County, and large quantities are annually felled. Of these the elm forms a considerable portion. The osier-beds on the banks of the Thames are also very productive to their owners.

The chief Rivers of Berkshire beside the Thames are the Kennet, Loddon, Lambourne, and Ock, whose courses will be severally described.

Area and Population, &c.

In point of extent, Berkshire stands thirty-second among the counties of England, containing 462,210 acres. A line drawn, with a very slight deflection on account of the bends of the Thames, wholly within the county, from Old Windsor in the E. to a point between Highworth and Lechlade in the extreme W., would be about 52 miles; but its length from E. to W. in a direct line is about ten miles less. So irregular is its shape that its breadth from N. to S., which is about 28 miles near its western border, measured from Oxford to Newbury, dwindles to little more than six between Reading and Riseley on the borders of Hampshire. Its northern border is nearly 109 miles in length, owing to the windings of the Thames, which washes it along the whole of its course.

The population of the county until recent years has been almost wholly agricultural; but now the development of the immense biscuit factory of Messrs. Huntley and Palmer in Reading, and other important works, employ a large number of men. The 'Penny Cyclopædia' states that at the census of 1821 only 521 out of 37,084 adult males were engaged in manufactures. The rate of increase of the population between 1801 and 1831 was 33 per cent., considerably below the average of the whole of England during that period, namely 57 per cent.

In 1831 the population was 146,234; in 1841, 161,759;

in 1851, 170,065; in 1861, 176,256; in 1871, 196,475; in 1881, 218,363; and in 1891, 238,446.

The populations of the seven municipal boroughs according to the 1891 census are: Abingdon 6557, Maidenhead 10,607, Newbury 11,002, Reading 60,054, Wallingford 2989, New Windsor 12,327, Wokingham 2060.

DIALECT.—The dialect of the Berkshire swains is very peculiar, and falls upon the unaccustomed ear with strange effect; *z* is constantly substituted for *s*, and *v* for *f*; *him* and *her* take the place of *he* and *she*, and *shis'n* is used instead of *hers*; *were* is pronounced like *war*; *old*, like *owld*; *oo* like *ŭ*; *this* and *that*, *thik* and *thak*; *a* is often doubled, as 'vaale' for 'vale.' Owing to the spread of education and to other causes, the true Berkshire dialect is fast dying out. Major Lowsley has recently published a "Glossary of Berkshire Words and Phrases." We subjoin a list of words which may indicate the chief characteristics of the Berkshire provincialism:

Athurt	Athwart.
Bungersome	Clumsy.
Gorsechicks	Goslings.
Stabbling	To tread dirt about.
Scrow	Angry.
Purly	Purblind.
Anenst	Nearly.
Figgs	Raisins.
Deedy	Notable.
Frow	Brittle.
To tole awoye	To entice away.
He do chapse oi	He scolds me.
To scawt	To labour.
Birdès	Birds.
Nestè	Nest.
Waspes	Wasps.
Postè	Post.
Voright, overrights	Opposite.
In great spout	In great spirits.
I telled him so smack to his head	I told him so to his face.
Cham	I am.
Oo'lt	Wilt thou.
Sprack	Sprightly.
Draw cuts	Draw lots.

But a still clearer idea of the Berkshire dialect may be obtained from the following specimen of its provincial

poetry, extracted from a work which, apart from its genuine humour, contains many valuable illustrations of Berkshire manners, "The Scouring of the White Horse," by Mr. Thomas Hughes, Q.C.:

CUPID'S GARDEN.

"As I wur in Cubit's gardin
Not mwoar no hap an hour,
'Twur ther I zeed two may-dens
Zittin' under Cubit's bower,
A-gatherin' of sweet jassa-mine,
The lily and the rose,—
These be the fairest flowers
As in the gardin grows.

"I vondly stepped to one o' them,
These words to her I zays,
'Be you engaged to arra young man,
Come, tell to me, I prays.'
'I bean't engaged to narra young man,
I solemnly declare;
I aims to live a may-den,
And still the laurel wear.'

"Zays I, 'My stars and garters!
This here's a pretty go,
Vor a vine young mayd as never wos
To sar' all man-kind zo.'
But the t'other young may-den looked sly at me,
And vrom her seat she risn,
Zays she, 'Let thee and I go our own way,
And we'll let she go shis'n.'"

Religious Houses, &c.

The religious houses in Berkshire before the Reformation are set down by Tanner in his "Notitia Monastica" as thirty-five in all, three of which, at Abingdon, Reading, and Bystletham (Bisham) were reckoned among the "greater monasteries," as possessing an income of 200*l.* a year.*

Out of all the Berkshire churches, that of Avington deserves special mention as a small but fine example of the Norman style; the chancel of Cholsey of good E. E.,

* *Cf.* p. 8.

Shottesbrooke of Dec., and St. George's Chapel, at Windsor, of Perp. work. Norman remains are but scanty in Berks; among these are the tower of Welford, near Newbury, and a part of St. Nicholas at Abingdon, and of Finchampstead Church.

"In no county of England have Henry's commissioners, Cromwell's soldiers, and other breakers-down of strongholds done their work more thoroughly than in Berkshire. Of its abbeys and priories there is scarcely a trace. Windsor Castle and the gateway of Donnington Castle are the only remains of its fortresses; and of the other castles the sites are not certainly known. The work, perhaps, could not be done negligently so close under the master's eye."—*Quarterly Review.*

The chief historic places in Berkshire are:—1. Reading; 2. Windsor; 3. Abingdon; 4. Wantage (King Alfred); 5. Wallingford; 6. Newbury (battles); 7. Ashdown, and Vale of White Horse; 8. Donnington Castle; 9. Wytham; 10. Cumnor; 11. Godstow; 12. Bisham Abbey; 13. Hurley.

SKELETON TOURS.

The traveller will obtain an excellent knowledge of the scenery and memorable places of Berkshire by adopting the following routes:—

1. Along the valley of the Thames.

2. From Windsor, by the Forest, Binfield, and Bearwood, to Reading.

3. From Reading, by rail to Aldermaston and Ufton Court, thence to Newbury, for Shaw House and Donnington Castle, and on to Hungerford.

4. By Avington, Wickham, Welford, and the Sheffords, to Lambourne.

5. By the Seven Barrows, Wayland Smith's Cave, the White Horse, Uffington Church, and Sparsholt, to Wantage.

6. By Faringdon, Pusey, Fyfield, Appleton, and Cumnor, to Abingdon.

7. By Sutton Courtney, Wallingford, Cholsey, Aldworth, and Basildon, to Pangbourne.

8. By rail to Twyford, Sonning, Wargrave, Hurley, and Bisham, to Maidenhead.

9. From Maidenhead to Shrivenham (G.W.R.).

10. From Twyford to Wargrave and Henley.
11. From Oxford to Steventon, Wokingham, and Reading.

Road journeys can also be taken between—
(1) Newbury, East Ilsley, and Abingdon;
(2) Newbury, Lambourne, Wantage, and Faringdon;
(3) Windsor and Wokingham.

The routes pass through such a succession of rich and fertile landscapes, and open up so many agreeable and romantic prospects, that the traveller will probably be disposed to appreciate the time-honoured patriotism of the "Berkshireman-born":—

> "Throo aall the waarld owld Gaarge would bwoast,
> Commend me to merry owld England mwoast;
> While vools gwoes praating vur and nigh,
> We stwops at whum, my dog and I."

VALLEY OF THE THAMES.

Rivers were the great civilizers and means of commerce in early times, so we naturally take them first.

The Thames forms the northern and eastern boundary of the county. We shall follow it seaward, on its fertilizing and brightening course, from Lechlade (in Gloucestershire) to Staines (in Middlesex), keeping along the southern or Berkshire bank only. Langford, near Lechlade, is partly in Oxfordshire, but chiefly in Berkshire.

At St. John's Bridge, Lechlade, the traveller may diverge into either of the three counties he pleases—Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire, or Berks. Our route, however, being already determined upon, we arrive at

Buscot (*pop.* 498). The church, dedicated to St. Mary, has a Norman chancel. Buscot Park (A. Henderson, Esq.) is extensive and well wooded. The house was built about 1780. It formerly belonged to the Loveden and Pryse families.

Eaton Hastings (*pop.* 190) lies among green meadows, in the bosom of much quiet and pleasant scenery. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is ancient, of the Norman and E. E. styles, and the registers date from about 1500.

The next point of interest is *Radcot Bridge*, "a venerable relic of antiquity." From hence we obtain a good view of the Oxfordshire town of Bampton, and of the wood-crowned heights of Berkshire.

At Radcot Bridge was fought, in 1387, the hot fight between Robert de Vere, Earl of Oxford, Duke of Ireland, and the Earl of Derby, afterwards Henry IV.

> "Here Oxford's hero, famous for his boar,
> While clashing swords upon his target sound,
> And show'rs of arrows from his breast rebound,
> Prepar'd for worst of fates, undaunted stood;
> And urg'd his beast into the rapid flood;

The waves in triumph bore him, and were proud
To sink beneath their honourable load."

DRAYTON.

FARINGDON (*pop.* 3391) is 2½m. south. "It is well entitled to a pilgrimage; although the house is gone which so bravely withstood the army of Cromwell, when the assailants were led to the attack by the owner of the mansion himself, Sir Robert Pye, who had married a daughter of the patriot, John Hampden. Of a far older castle which 'the favourers of Empress Matilda erected, and King Stephen pulled down,' there remains nothing but tradition. There sleeps, however, in the village church a brave knight, whom England chronicles among the worthiest of her worthies—that Sir Edward Unton who, while Queen Elizabeth's ambassador to France, upheld her honour and that of his country, by sending a challenge, couched in memorable words, to the Duke of Guise, who had slandered the fair fame of his adored queen and mistress, and who, in speaking basely of her, had 'most shamefully and wickedly lied.'"—*Mrs. S. C. Hall.*

The town is described by Ashmole as "pleasantly situated on an eminence; and formerly a fortress built by Robert, Earl of Gloucester, during the usurpation of Stephen, Earl of Blois, who, after some opposition, took it and levelled it to the ground. The usurper founded here a priory of Cistercian monks." But all traces of both castle and priory are gone.

Faringdon, now a town of some importance, and noted for its excellent pork, was once the residence of the Saxon kings. Here in 925 died Edward the Elder, King of Mercia. The site of the ancient castle was granted by King John, in 1202, for a Cistercian Abbey, an offspring of the wealthy foundation of Beaulieu. The church is large and cruciform, with a stunted early English tower, built about 1200, and a chancel partly E.E. and partly Dec. The nave has a north door of early Norman work, but the rest is in the Transition style. The church is dedicated to All Saints. The spire was destroyed by the Parliamentary forces during the Civil War. There are monuments to the Purefoys of Wanley, the Pyes, the Untons, and the Rawdons. Sir Marmaduke Rawdon, who was Governor of Faringdon, successfully defended the garrison against the Parliamentary army.

Faringdon House, near the church, sustained a desperate siege in the Civil War. It was at one time the residence of Pye, the poet-laureate. An eminence of ironsand, just outside the town, is marked by a grove of Scotch firs, known as *Faringdon Clump*, whence a very beautiful panoramic view can be obtained, embracing the whole of the Vale of the White Horse, a large portion of Oxfordshire, with parts of Gloucestershire and Wilts.

The town-hall, in the centre of the principal street, is used for meetings and also as a public reading-room.

The church and parish of Little Coxwell are ecclesiastically united with Faringdon. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, is an ancient building, principally of the Norman and Transitional period. The register dates from 1582.

At *Great Coxwell*, 2m. S.W. from Faringdon, is an ancient church (E.E. and P.) dedicated to St. Giles, containing a good brass of 1500, and several memorial inscriptions; the register dates from 1654. At the top of Badbury Hill, a short distance from the village, are the remains of a camp, probably Saxon; it is circular in form, about 200 yards in diameter, and surrounded by a ditch 10 yards wide. "Contiguous to the village is a farmhouse, being the remains of a religious establishment built by the abbots of Beaulieu, New Forest, to whom King John granted the manor in 1205; the barn is 148 feet in length, and 40 feet in width; the building is cruciform; the roof, which is exceedingly sharp, and internally presenting, from its peculiar construction, a very singular perspective, is supported by two ranges of wooden pillars resting on pedestals of stone."—*Kelly's Post Office Directory.*

A short distance below New Bridge, which is about ten miles from Great Coxwell, the Windrush contributes its waters to the Thames.

From Bablock Hithe Ferry, a road branches inland, for about a mile, and ascends the road to *Cumnor*, a spot identified with the genius of Sir Walter Scott in "Kenilworth." It was formerly a country seat of the abbots of Abingdon, and used by them as a kind of sanitarium. In 1560 it was purchased by Anthony Forster, during whose occupancy of the Hall occurred the tragic event which romance, poetry, and history have equally made their own.

Amy Robsart, the daughter of Sir John Robsart, was married to Lord Robert Dudley at Sheen on the 4th of

June, 1550, and in the presence of Edward VI. The favour of Elizabeth raised her splendid courtier to such high and superb dignities, that there remained but one higher object for his ambition, the hand of his sovereign, and a king-consort's throne ; but the way was barred by his marriage with Lady Amy. Now, it happened that on the 8th of September 1560, Lady Dudley, being then only 28 years old, was staying with her husband's friend, Squire Forster, of Cumnor, when she died under circumstances which left little doubt that she had been murdered. Forster and Sir Richard Varney first attempted, it is said, to poison her, and failing in this, forcibly sent her servants away to Abingdon Market, and then, after either stifling or strangling her, flung her down a pair of stairs and broke her neck, giving out that she had died from a fall. Ashmole adds that Varney, "afterwards dying in London, cried miserably, and blasphemed God, saying that all the devils in hell did tear him in pieces ; and that Forster, being formerly a man addicted to hospitality, company, mirth, and music, was afterwards observed to forsake all this, and, being affected with much melancholy (some say madness), pined and drooped away." No inquiry was made into the circumstances of the murder, though it is but justice to Leicester to acknowledge that he urged very strenuously the necessity of such a course. There seems reason to believe that the crime was not instigated by him, but projected and carried out by those who knew how great an obstacle in his path was the neglected wife.

Scott, in his "Kenilworth," has perverted the historical facts with some extravagance, as the lady died in 1560, four years before Dudley became an Earl, and fifteen years before the memorable visit of Queen Elizabeth to Kenilworth Castle, so graphically described in the famous novel ; but for English readers, Amy Robsart will always remain the tender, loving heroine conceived and portrayed by the author's genius. He has closely followed Mickle's ballad in elevating the small and unpretending residence of the Berkshire yeoman into a towered and battlemented mansion :—

> "Full many a traveller had sighed
> And pensive wept the Countess' fall,
> As wandering onwards they espied
> The haunted towers of Cumnor Hall.

"The dews of summer-night did fall;
The moon, sweet regent of the sky,
Silvered the walls of Cumnor Hall,
And many an oak that grew thereby."

Nothing now remains of the house, except a low wall adjoining the churchyard. The mansion itself was quadrangular; it was pulled down towards the close of the last century. In Ashmole's time a large part of the house was still standing, and he says that he saw the arms of Abingdon cut in stone on the chimney in the great hall.

Cumnor Church, dedicated to St. Michael, consists of nave and N. aisle, a chapel at the E. end of the S. side, a chancel, and tower. In the chancel is the altar-tomb of the celebrated Anthony Forster, whose praises are sung in a long epitaph of 32 verses, and who scarcely seems to have been the wretch described by Ashmole and Scott, and condemned by posterity. It is doubtful whether he ever committed the crime which is attached to his memory. The church contains some interesting brasses, and a chained Bible of 1611.

The village inn still rejoices in the sign of the *Bear and Ragged Staff*, and has been nominally kept by "Giles Gosling," ever since the publication of "Kenilworth."

Leaving Stanton Harcourt, a temporary residence of Pope, on our L., across the river in Oxfordshire, we next arrive at

Ensham, or *Swinford*, *Bridge*. Ensham, Eynesham, or Einsham (in Oxfordshire), was a place of repute even before the Conquest. An abbey was founded here by Ethelmar, Earl of Cornwall, in the reign of King Ethelred, and here Ethelred held a general council in 1009.

The distance from Ensham to Godstow Bridge is about 3m.; between these bridges we meet the *Evenlode*, a pleasant river which, rising on the border of Worcestershire, and passing by Moreton-in-the-Marsh, Charlbury and Combe, and brightening the wooded glades of Blenheim Park, here joins the Thames, and proceeds with it to Oxford. "All along to the R. of the river highway, we keep in sight the wooded heights of Wytham, a pleasure enhanced by the numerous windings of the river, which exhibit the hill in every variety of form. This 'bit' is the more valuable because of its rarity, as contrasting with the ordinary flatness and sameness of adjacent lands."

Next we arrive at *Godstow Bridge*, a picturesque spot, and a favourite resort of anglers. On the Oxfordshire bank are the ruins of Godstow convent, where the bones of Fair Rosamond were interred.

At the foot of Wytham Hill stands the ancient village of Witteham, or Wytham (*pop.* 210), where a convent for nuns existed in the year 690. The Earls of Abingdon have a seat here, Wytham Abbey, dating from the time of Henry VI.; the mansion was rebuilt partly with the stones of Godstow, and enriched with the spoils of Cumnor. The church, dedicated to All Saints, originally erected by the monks of Abingdon in 1480, was rebuilt by the late Earl of Abingdon, early in the present century, and contains some early mutilated brasses, and a monument of Henry Purcell, the musician. The W. wall of the churchyard has a doorway which was brought from Cumnor bearing the inscription "*Janua vitæ verbum Domini*," and once had also "Antonius Forster, 1571."

On the summit of Wytham Hill "was a castle supposed to have been built by Kinewulf, King of the West Saxons, during his wars with Offa, King of the Mercians, who after it had fallen into his hands, made it his residence; the battle through which Offa obtained possession of it was fought traditionally at a place called Sandfield, in which neighbourhood Hearne, in his 'Liber Niger,' says that armour, swords, and human bones have been found."—*Kelly*.

From Binsey Weir we obtain a very charming view of ancient Oxford, its spires, and pinnacles, and towers—

> "Like a rich gem in circling gold enshrined,
> Where Isis' waters wind
> Along the sweetest shore
> That ever felt fair Culture's hands,
> Or Spring's embroidered mantle wore—
> Lo! where majestic Oxford stands."

We pass through Osney (or Ousen-ey, Ouse Island) Lock, so named from the adjoining village, where there was once a famous abbey, erected in 1129, by a valiant knight named D'Oyly. *Oxford* will receive due illustration hereafter in another volume. Hence, leaving the towers and spires of the University and its Colleges behind us, we will now glide gently down the stream to Iffley Lock, Sandford, and Nuneham Lock, until we reach Abingdon. Kennington

and Radley, small villages lying away to the right, will be dealt with hereafter.

Abingdon (*pop.* 6557) is one of the oldest towns in England. It stands near the junction of the little river Ock with the Thames, and although nowadays a quiet, unbusiness-like little place, has played a notable part in many of the most stirring events of British history. Its legendary origin is thus described : "At a time when the wretched pagan Hengist basely murdered 460 noblemen and barons at Stonhengest, or Stonehenge, Aben, a nobleman's son, escaped into a wood, on the S. side of Oxfordshire, where, leading a most holy life, the inhabitants of the country flocking to him to hear the Word of God, built him a dwelling house and a chapel in honour of the Holy Virgin; but he, disliking their resort, stole away to Ireland, and from him the place where he dwelt is called Abingdon."—*Leland.*

According to Ashmole, the original town was Seovocesham, or Seusham, which, according to a MS. in the Cottonian Library, was a wealthy city, a royal residence, and a place of religious worship, even in early British times. In the opinion of some writers it was the Cloveshoe, so famous in the history of English Church Councils. It was deserted, however, by the Saxon kings for many years, till Offa, King of Mercia and Wessex, happening to visit the place, was so charmed by the beauties of the Isle of Andersey, at that time occupied by rich lay monks, that he prevailed upon them to exchange it for the manor of Goosey, and built there a palace which became his favourite residence. His son and successor, King Egfrid, died there. Kenwulf, the next King of Wessex, gave up the palace to his huntsmen and falconers, whose noisy company so disgusted the tranquil brethren that Abbot Uthemus bought back Andersey at the cost of the rich manor of Sutton Courtney and 120*l.* in silver. The site of Andersey is still denoted by a large tract of land encircled by the Thames and a tributary inlet.

Abingdon returned one member to a single Parliament in 1337, and continued to return one from 1556, until 1885, when it was disfranchised. Among its M.P.'s have been Sir Simon Harcourt, afterwards Lord Keeper; and Sir Frederick Thesiger, afterwards Lord Chancellor Chelmsford.

Abingdon was the scene of several encounters during the

Civil War, and was held successively by the Royalist and Parliamentary troops.

The town, however, owes its importance to its abbey, which, after many stirring changes, became one of the wealthiest mitred abbeys in England.

This religious house was founded on the hill, about 675, by Cissa, Viceroy of Centwin or Kentwin, King of Wessex, in honour of the Blessed Virgin, to contain twelve Benedictine monks, over whom his nephew Heane was appointed abbot. The foundation of Cissa was confirmed by Ceadwalla, who also gave him the town of Seovocesham, commanding that it should be called for the future Abbendon, from the abbey hill. In the days of the Danish invasion, *temp.* Alfred, the monks were driven away, and the abbey destroyed; but they returned under Edred his grandson, 955, who, under the influence of Dunstan, began to rebuild the abbey, which was completed in 963, by Abbot Ordgar. Here Edward the Confessor and Geoffrey of Monmouth were buried. William the Conqueror kept Easter here in 1084, and he left his son Henry (Beauclerk), afterwards Henry I., to be educated here under Robert Dayly. The landed property belonging to the abbot and convent at the time of the Domesday Survey was no less than thirty manors in this county, besides others which they held as lords of the see. The Conqueror displaced the Saxon abbot Aldred, imprisoned him at Wallingford Castle, and appointed one of his creatures, a Normanized Saxon named Athelhelm. Here, in 1276, Henry III. held his court.

In the time of Henry VIII., when the monasteries were dissolved, the famous abbey was surrendered to the king by the abbot, who fared better than many of his brethren, and was allowed to retire on a pension to the manor-house of Cumnor.

Of the once stately pile which crowned the hill with glory, a gateway, a statue, and a pillar or two, are still standing; some of its outer walls and the refectory, with an ancient fireplace, also still remain, and form portions of the Abbey Brewery and adjoining street.

Ancient Abingdon was also famous for its picturesque bridge, built by some worthy citizens of Abingdon in the reign of Henry V.; its Early English churches, and its "Hospital of the Brotherhood of the Holy Cross," founded in the middle of the fourteenth century; a very interesting low brick and timber house containing some good paintings.

Leland and Camden both mention the market cross as "of freestone, not inferior in workmanship to many in England." It would seem to have been erected by the Confraternity or Gild of the Holy Cross, who also repaired the road between Abingdon and Dorchester. This Gild was formed in 1389, and became very rich and affluent. They feasted yearly on May 3rd, and provided six calves at 2s. 2d. each, sixteen lambs at 1s. each, eighty capons at 3d. each, eighty geese at 2½d. each, and eight hundred eggs at 5d. a hundred, besides vegetables, &c.

St. Helen's Church, near the river, dates from the fourteenth century, and consists of nave and aisles, chancel, and a lofty spire. The five parallel aisles make the church appear very wide, and bear the names, *Jesus, Our Lady, St. Helen, St. Catherine, and the Holy Cross.* The interior was thoroughly restored in 1873. The register dates from 1656. Among the monuments is one to John Roysse, the founder of the Grammar School; it consists of a large stone slab, brought, according to his directions, from his garden in London, and from it, as a table, bread used to be distributed weekly to the poor. There are some good ancient brasses. Geoffrey Barbour, merchant, 1417, William Hayward, vicar, 1501, the curious panel portraits of William Lee, five times Mayor of Abingdon, who, "in his lifetime had issue from his loins 200 lacking but 3." (Ashmole).

St. Nicholas Church is said to have been built by Abbot Nicholas, in 1307, on the site of a more ancient and possibly Saxon edifice. There is a late Nor. doorway; the rest of the church is Perp., and was restored in 1881. The register dates from 1538.

St. Michael's Church, of Dec. architecture, was built in 1867 from designs by the late Sir G. Gilbert Scott. A Roman Catholic church, with schools attached, has been erected by Sir G. Bowyer, Bart., in the Vineyard; and there are several chapels and meeting-houses for Dissenters.

The Grammar School, founded in 1563, is one of great repute, and among its illustrious alumni have been Lord Chief Justice Holt, Abp. Newcombe and Dr. Thomas Godwin, Rector of Brightwell, author of "Roman and Jewish Antiquities." A schoolmaster's house and dormitories for forty boarders were erected in 1869, at a cost of 5000*l.* on the E. side of Albert Park.

Among the other eminent natives of Abingdon have been St. Edmund, Abp. of Canterbury, whose remains are enshrined at Pontigny in France; Sir John Mason, Ambassador to France *temp.* Henry VIII.; Abbot, Speaker of the House of Commons; and Moore, the author of the once popular play of "The Gamester." Clement Barksdale, author of the "Life of Grotius," and Sir Edward Turnour, Chief Baron of the Exchequer in 1671, were educated at Abingdon School. The Rev. Dr. Lempriere was elected master of the school in 1792. The second edition of his classical Dictionary was prepared here in 1793; the first edition was published in Reading, Lempriere being a master at the Grammar School of that town.

Abingdon possesses several excellent charities. Christ's Hospital was founded in 1553 by Sir John Mason, a native of this place, for the maintenance of fourteen poor men and women; but from the great increase in the revenues of the charity, the governors have been enabled to build and endow eighteen additional houses. The income is now above 2000*l.* per annum; and the inmates receive 8s. weekly. In the hall of Christ's Hospital is a tablet with some curious verses describing the erection of Culham Bridge, whereby the great road from London was turned through this town.

Albert Park, consisting of about fifteen acres, well planted with trees and shrubs, was presented to the town by the Governors of Christ's Hospital in 1864; in it is a memorial to the late Prince Consort, erected by subscription.

Sunningwell, W. Abingdon, was the birthplace of Bishop Fell, and is the burial-place of many members of his family.

Marcham Park, about 3m. W., between Abingdon and Kingston Bagpuise, was the property of "the Miser," John Elwes, formerly M.P. for Berkshire, and it still belongs to his descendants in the female line, the Duffields.

Bessel's Leigh (*pop.* 105), 4½m. N.W. from Abingdon, has long been chiefly owned by the family of Lenthall, the first of whom, William Lenthall, Esq., Speaker of the House of Commons, purchased the property from the Fettiplace family early in the seventeenth century. The Fettiplaces obtained the manor by marriage with the family of the Besils, who originally came from Provence and were "men of activity in Feates of Armes."—(Leland). His son, Sir John Lenthall, was Governor of Windsor

Castle, and colonel in the Parliamentary Army; he died in 1682, and was buried in the chancel of the parish church, where there is a monument to his memory. The church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is a small edifice, chiefly late Norman. It was restored by Speaker Lenthall in 1632, and by William John Lenthall in 1788.

Ashmole says that at the house of the Lenthalls was preserved a picture of Sir Thomas More and his family, painted by Hans Holbein, but now (1719) removed to Burford Priory, in Oxfordshire. The Royalists began to fortify the house during the Civil War, but were prevented from accomplishing the work by a vigorous attack of a Parliamentary force.

On leaving Abingdon, we pursue our course along the reaches of the silver-winding Thames, past Sutton Courtney, Appleford, Long Wittenham, and Little Wittenham, where numerous Roman antiquities have been discovered, and in the shadow of the rounded hills of chalk. It is stated on a monument at Sutton Courtney, that the manor of Denchworth in this parish was conferred on the Hyde family by the first Danish king, Canute. Denchworth Church (2½m. from Wantage) is full of interest, with its Norman doorway, its brass memorials to the Hydes (one of which is a palimpsest), and its library of ancient books, one of which, Caxton's "Golden Legend" of 1483, is now in the Bodleian library. At Little Wittenham the church is embowered among trees, and here, under a far-spreading oak, Prior composed his "Henry and Emma." The church is dedicated to St. Peter, and, with the exception of the tower, was rebuilt in 1863, in the E.E. style of architecture. The church contains monuments to the Dunches, an old Berkshire family, conspicuous in the time of the Commonwealth, but now extinct. [Long Wittenham is about a mile distant. A Saxon cemetery has been discovered here. The church, dedicated to St. Mary, comprises specimens of the different styles of architecture, ranging from Norman to Elizabethan; it was "restored" in 1850. In this church is (or was) a happy Latin epigram under the royal arms, painted *temp.* Charles II.:

"Qui Leo de Judâ est et Flos de Jesse, leones
Protegat et flores, Carole magne, tuos."]

Here are two hills with bare sides and a tuft of trees on their summits, known as the Wittenham Clumps. Between

Wittenham and Benson, or Bensington, where the Saxon King Cynewulf held his court and was defeated by Offa, King of Mercia, in the battle of Benson, in 777, a mile or two before we reach Wallingford, we witness the junction of the Thame with the Isis, for so the poets *will* call the upper portion of England's principal river, while Pope represents the twain as parents of the vigorous Thames:

> "The famèd authors of his ancient name,
> The winding Isis and the fruitful Thame.'

And so Spenser:

> "Then before them went, as best became
> His ancient parents, namely, the ancient Thame;
> But much more ancient was his wife than he,
> The Ouse, whom men do Isis rightly name."

Henceforward the confluent streams

> "With friendly and with equal pace they go,
> And in their clear meanderings wandering slow;"

passing under the bridge of Shillingford, washing the rich level meadows of Bensington or Benson, and flowing through a delicious wealth of leaf and blossom and osier beds, to

Wallingford (*pop.* 2989), a town which has grown up on the ruins of the old settlements of the Britons, the Romans, the Danes, and the Saxons. It was called by the Britons Gualen, or "old fort," and is still encircled by Roman earthworks. A very large number of Roman, British and Saxon coins have been found, many of which are in the possession of Mr. W. R. Davies, of Wallingford. The town was burnt by the Danes in 1006. Their King Sweyn was born here in 1013. In the time of Edward the Confessor it was a flourishing town, and was created a borough.

At the time of the Norman invasion the town was held by the great Saxon Thane Wigod, cupbearer of Edward the Confessor, who sumptuously entertained William the Conqueror for several days, and married his daughter to Robert D'Oyley, a Norman baron. William ordered him to build a castle, which was completed in 1071, and became the scene of many important historical events. D'Oyley's daughter married Brian Fitzcount, a great warrior, and supporter of the Empress Maud in her wars with Stephen. The castle was strongly fortified. Stephen besieged the

town, and for sixteen years continued to attack it; but the fortress was strong enough to resist his efforts. At length Prince Henry from Normandy relieved the town. Maud was besieged at Oxford by the forces of the king, but contrived to effect her escape by night dressed in white, when during a hard winter the river was frozen. The Peace of Wallingford, which declared the succession of the crown to the son of the empress, concluded the war.

The castle contained terrible dungeons, in which Brian Fitzcourt confined and cruelly tortured his prisoners. The people of Wallingford complained of the groans which issued from the victims of his avarice.

Henry II. granted many privileges to the town. John besieged the castle, which was held by the Archbishop of Rouen for King Richard. Henry III. granted it to his brother Richard, who held a great court here. Simon de Montford and the barons surprised the castle, and subsequently the king, Prince Henry and others were taken prisoners and confined here. A grand tournament was held at Wallingford in the time of Edward II., who gave the manor to his favourite Piers Gaveston. The castle was subsequently held by Queen Isabella and her paramour Mortimer. The castle and honour were held with the earldom of Cornwall, and settled on the eldest sons of the Kings of England. The Black Prince held it, and it was a favourite residence of his widow Joan, the "Fair Maid of Kent," who died of grief here in 1385. The castle was given by Henry VIII. to Wolsey for his new college at Oxford; and his students came to it for refuge when Oxford was ravaged by the plague.

In the castle was a collegiate church dedicated to St. Nicholas. According to Leland, the castle was surrounded by three deep and broad entrenchments, and it comprised not only several large buildings, but also five streets, one of which was called "The Goldsmith's Row." Here Owen Tudor was confined for marrying Catherine of France, the mother of Henry VII.

Wolsey suppressed a priory of Black Friars within the west gate of the town.

During the Civil Wars the castle was fortified and held for the king by Col. Blagge, under whom every attempt to take it was unsuccessful. It was almost the last castle to surrender to the Roundheads. It was used for a state prison, but destroyed by order of the Council in 1652. A

few fragments of the walls covered with ivy are all that remain.

Wallingford formerly contained thirteen churches, most of which suffered very materially during the Civil Wars of Charles I. There are now only three churches, namely, St. Leonard's, St. Mary's, and St. Peter's. St. Leonard's Church is a very interesting edifice in the Norman style, and consists of chancel, nave, S. aisle, and belfry; it was "restored" in 1850. St. Mary's, in the E.E. style, consists of chancel, nave, S. aisle, and a tower; it was restored and enlarged in 1854. St. Peter's was "restored" in 1760; it has a spire which was "erected in 1778 by Sir William Blackstone, the celebrated judge, who was buried here" (*Kelly*).

The Grammar School, originally endowed by Walter Bigg with an income of 10*l*., which has since been increased to about 200*l*., has lately been rebuilt, at a cost, including the site, of about 3000*l*. The National Schools were erected in 1861. The Town Hall was built in 1670, and contains several portraits presented by the leading men of the town; among them is one of Archbishop Laud, supposed to be by Holbein. Among the other public buildings are the Corn Exchange, the Police Station, the Free Library and Literary Institute, &c. Castle Priory, now a private residence, was formerly the seat of Judge Blackstone. Wallingford Castle (John Kirkby Hedges, Esq.) is an Elizabethan mansion, situated on an eminence commanding extensive views.

The bridge, 900 feet in length, was built in 1809 on the site of an older structure.

Wallingford sent two members to Parliament from 1295 down to 1832, when one was taken away by the first Reform Bill, and in 1885 the borough was disfranchised. Among its distinguished members was Sir N. W. Wraxall. For many years past Wallingford has been noted for its annual wool sale in July; at some of these sales as many as 10,000 fleeces are submitted to public competition.

Brightwell, 2m. N.W. from Wallingford, has an E.E. church, dedicated to St. Agatha. It consists of nave and aisles and chancel, and contains a few brasses. The tower was rebuilt in 1797, and the church entirely "restored" in 1858.

After we leave Wallingford we find the scenery along

the bank of the Thames rapidly increasing in beauty. Thus far it has been tame and dull.

"The most beautiful and romantic part of its course," observes the author of "The Thames from Oxford to the Sea," "is between Wallingford, Reading, and Maidenhead Bridge, where the alternations of valleys and hills, richly adorned with beechwood, and studded with magnificent villas, impart to it a degree of natural beauty and artistic adornment of no ordinary kind."

Cholsey—that is Ceol's ey, or island—stands on the site of a monastery, founded by Ethelred, in 986, to expiate the murder of Edward the Martyr. This was burnt by the Danes in 1006, and the lands of the monastery were given to Reading Abbey, near the site of which Elfrida, in 986, also founded a convent, as an atonement for the same crime. This was also destroyed by the Danes. The church is of great antiquity; it is cruciform, and was "restored" in 1877. The edifice, which is dedicated to St. Mary, consists of chancel, nave, N. and S. transept, with Norman arches, and a tower. The chancel is a fine specimen of E.E. workmanship, and there are several interesting brasses. The yew-tree in the churchyard is of great age, and is six yards in circumference. There is an ancient tithe barn, 303 feet long, which dates from A.D. 1101, and belonged to the Abbots of Reading.

Passing the bridge, which spans the Thames at Wallingford Road Station, we see the little church of *Moulsford* embosomed in trees.

Moulsford, 3½m. S. from Wallingford, is a village and parish with a station on the G.W.R. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, dates from the fourteenth century. It was restored and enlarged in 1847. Moulsford Lunatic Asylum, the county asylum for Berks, is in the parish of Cholsey. It occupies a prominent position on the Wallingford Road, and stands on an estate of eighty acres, extending down to the Thames. The building was opened in 1870, and was planned to hold 285 patients. It now holds 522, having been much enlarged. It is constructed of red brick, with stone dressings, and the architecture is a modification of the E.E. Moulsford is a great resort for artists, anglers, and boating-men, for whom the Beetle and Wedge Hotel provides excellent accommodation.

At Clieve Mill Lock, we drift into view of the Streatley Hills, at whose foot nestle the twin villages of Streatley

and Goring (the latter in Oxfordshire) joined by a long but pretty bridge, commanding a good prospect of the curves, promontories, and aits, or eyots, of the river, which is here much frequented by artists and fishermen.

Hence, until we arrive at the villages of Pangbourne and Whitchurch, the Thames assumes a new character; high hills, richly clad in foliage, hang over us on either side, now and then opening, occasionally bare, and frequently fringing the banks of the stream with the branches of the best varieties of British trees, among which the beech predominates.

The tourist who visits Streatley will find the little Dec. church at Aldworth (3m. on the hills) well worth a visit, on account of its yew-tree, said to be upwards of a thousand years old,* and of the finely sculptured monuments and effigies of eight members of the family of De la Beche, who once owned the castle here, now utterly demolished. The cottagers here are very primitive in their habits, owing to the inaccessibility of the place by roads. On the other side of the river, close to the bridge, is the old conventual church of Goring, with a fine Norman tower. Resuming our voyage, we leave to the R., on the slope of one of the hills which now "accompany" us for several miles, the noble mansion of Basildon Park (Charles Morrison, Esq.). Basildon Church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, is supposed to date from the time of Edward II.; it contains monuments to the memory of Sir Francis Sykes, Bart., and family, former residents here. Basildon Grotto, now called Beech Combe, formerly belonging to the Sykes family, now owned by D'Arcy W. Reeve, Esq., is one of the prettiest of river-side seats.

The villages of Pangbourne and Whitchurch, like those of Streatley and Goring, are united by a bridge, a little above which are the lock and weir; they are much frequented in summer by artists, and by the disciples of Izaak Walton. "The scenery all about this neighbourhood is exceedingly interesting and beautiful; the stream is broad, and the wood-crowned heights that arise on either side add to the view that variety which is especially welcome after so much that is tame and flat with which the upper Thames so continually supplies us."—*Mrs. S. C. Hall.*

* The trunk of this magnificent yew, which is said in its prime to have shaded an acre of ground, measures at 5 feet from the turf no less than 9 yards in circumference.

Pangbourne (pop. 737) derives its name from the Pang, a favourite trout stream, much resorted to by anglers. The church, dedicated to St. James the Great, contains a monument of Sir John Davis, the Elizabethan sea-captain, who spent his last days here, and was buried in 1625.

Bere Court, in this neighbourhood (the property of Mrs. Breedon, of Courtlands), was given by Brigham, Bp. of Salisbury, to the abbot and monastery of Reading, in 1230. At the "Dissolution" it was sold to Sir John Davis, and in 1671 it passed into the hands of the Breedon family. It is a curious and ancient structure, and worthy of a visit. In the house is a chapel, dating from the 14th century, with painted windows. The E. window is divided into three lights, in the centre of which is the figure of our Blessed Saviour on the Cross, the side-lights being occupied by figures of the Blessed Virgin and St. John. In the compartments of each light are four of the Apostles, each holding a scroll on which are engraved the Articles of the Creed. Another window contains the portrait of Hugh Farringdon, Abbot of Reading, habited in his full ecclesiastical robes, and kneeling before a desk, on which lies an open book. Out of his mouth issues a scroll, with the words "In te, Domine, speravi."

In the windows of the parlour are, writes Elias Ashmole in 1719, several rundles of old painted glass, wherein are represented the following emblematical devices, all more or less religious.

I. Represents a seated female figure. In her lap a unicorn rests his head, and on the unicorn's body are the words UNICORNUS CHRISTI INCARNATIO. Out of the unicorn's mouth proceeds a scroll bearing these lines:

Virginis in gremio Unicor ferus ecce mitesco.
Sic Deus est et Homo, conceptus Virginis alvo.

II. A pelican wounding her breast, on whose wing is the word PASSIO, and on a scroll issuing from her mouth is written:

En morior: vitam celi dabo sic redimitam,
Consignans Christum, morsum qui sustulit istum.

III. Two lions, and with them a little one; upon one of them is written LEO; CHRIST; and out of his mouth comes a scroll thus inscribed:

Suscito prostratos catulos flatu nece natos,
Sic Pater in superis Christum reparabit ab——

IV. An eagle, upon whose breast is written AQUILA, and ASCENSIO on its wing, and from her beak issues a scroll, with the couplet:

Culmina mutando celestia culmina stando
Quo Christum pando mortem post alta volando.

V. A tree, in which is a nightingale with an owl, and near them written PHILOMELLUS . .; MEMORIA MORTIS, and out of his beak the following scroll:

Dum pungor sente, mihi sunt necis ardua mente:
Mors te purgat humo, ne moriaris homo.

VI. A swan, with a crown about its neck and a chain; inscribed DEFECTUS MUNDANE GLORIE . . . CYGNUS. From a scroll in its beak:

Carmina dulce cano cantus vocis et mihi canto.
Cur tibi gaudes homo, mors omnia corripit e quo.

VII. A phœnix burning in its nest:
FENIX. CONSIDERATIO FRAGILITATIS HUMANE.
The scroll:

Sum cinis en natus, tandem cinis igne probatus;
Et homo mutatus, cinis in cineresque renatus.

VIII. An eagle, perched upon a hawthorn, and on her wing the word THORNE. On the scroll issuing from its mouth:

Saepe creat pulcras aspera spina rosas.

At *Tidmarsh*, 1m. distant, is a beautiful little parish church, with a Norman apsidal chancel.

Bradfield (pop. 1161), 3½m. S.W. from Pangbourne, has an ancient church, dedicated to St. Andrew, which was enlarged and reconsecrated in 1848. Near the church is St. Andrew's College, which was founded in 1850 for the education of the sons of gentlemen. It was endowed as a foundation school in 1859, and was incorporated by royal charter in 1862; by a recent alteration of the statutes 300 commoners are admitted, and there are 16 founder's boys. The statutes provide that "the founder's boys shall be either fatherless, or the sons of poor gentlemen or clergy-

men, and they shall be lodged, boarded, and instructed gratuitously, and upon terms of equality in all respects with the commoners."

"Before quitting Pangbourne, I would just point out that it, or Streatley, is an admirable place for a young landscape-painter to escape to for a few days from the smoky atmosphere of London. . . . There are, as architectural studies, Goring Church, both in parts and as a whole; Hardwick, a capital exercise, and the bays and oriels of Mapledurham; of homely picturesque buildings he will see plenty about the villages; the mill at Maple-Durham will yield more than one sketch; and he could not desire better models for landscape 'figures' than the folks hereabout. One other person ought not to be overlooked —I mean the angler. Pangbourne is a famous spot for him. If he cast the fly, Thames will yield plenty of work; trout abound and rise kindly, and the little Pang brook, which enters the Thames by the village (and gives it its name) is also a good trout stream. If he prefer trolling, there are some stout jack which will not let him want sport; and if he be content to fish at bottom, he may always reckon on a good basket of barbel, roach, or chub, if he know how to handle his tackle."—*Thorne's 'Rambles by Rivers.'*

Leaving Pangbourne and following the Thames, we soon reach *Hardwick House*, a noble red brick Tudor mansion, on the side of the river, which suffered severely in the Civil Wars. *Purley Hall* (F. Wilder, Esq.) was the residence of Warren Hastings during his famous trial. It was built by Law, the projector of Mississippi banks and South Sea schemes. *Purley Park* (Major Anthony M. Storer) is a large, plain building on the banks of the Thames, standing in an enclosed park.

The church of Purley is small, and of E.E. architecture; it was rebuilt, with the exception of the tower, in 1870. The font is Norman, and there are a few Norman remains worked into the present building. It contains some curious tapestry work.

Mapledurham House, with its tall chimneys and Elizabethan architecture, lies on the Oxfordshire side of the river, and has long been a favourite subject for artists. The mansion is the seat of the Blounts, and was frequently visited by Pope, who was one of their chief friends.

Passing Mapledurham Lock and leaving the pretty and

retired village of Sulham away on our right, we now reach Caversham Bridge, which spans the Thames at Reading, connecting the town with Caversham in Oxfordshire. The old bridge, of venerable antiquity, with its chapel dedicated to the Holy Ghost, has long since passed away, and has been replaced by an iron structure.

READING (pop. 60,054) is situated on the banks of the Kennet, about half a mile above the junction of that river with the Thames.

> "At Reading once arrived, clear Kennet overtakes
> Her lord, the stately Thames; which that great flood again
> With many signs of joy doth kindly entertain."
>
> DRAYTON.

Reading is a handsome town, and stands in a most agreeable position, 36 miles from London. The principal inns are the *Queen's Hotel*, the *George*, the *Wheatsheaf*, and the *Great Western Hotel*. Although modern "improvements" have destroyed many of its ancient buildings, it still possesses many interesting features, and in wealth, prosperity, and population has outstripped all the other towns in Berks, and is the capital of the county. Celtic and Romano-British remains have been found here, of which a good collection may be seen in the Museum. The Saxons settled here, and gave the name to the place, Reading being derived from the Redingas, the descendants of Ræda. Asser states that the town was fortified, and possessed a castle. It was burnt by the Danes in 871 A.D. Three days afterwards Ethelwulph, Earl of Berks, defeated the invaders at Englefield, and after the battle of Ashdown forced them to retire. Elfrida founded a nunnery at Reading as an atonement for the murder of Edward the Martyr at Corfe Castle. In 1006 the Danes again burnt the town to the ground.

In Doomsday Book it is recorded that Reading had four mills, three fisheries, and twenty-eight houses, and that Battle Abbey was endowed with the possession of the nunnery of Elfrida.

A strong castle existed here until the time of Henry II., who destroyed it because it afforded a place of refuge to the partisans of King Stephen in their conflict with the Empress Maud. It was so utterly demolished that not a vestige of it is extant.

The town owed its ancient importance to the magni-

ficent Benedictine abbey, founded by Henry I. in 1121, in the church of which he was buried. Royal visits to Reading were of frequent occurrence. Here parliaments were held, and several important events in English history took place. Stephen came here in 1140, but the townsfolk received Maud with distinguished honour in the following year, and espoused her cause. In the reign of Henry II. a single combat was fought between Robert de Montfort and Henry of Essex, hereditary standard-bearer to kings of England, who, in an engagement with the Welsh in 1157, had cowardly thrown away the royal banner. He was challenged by Robert de Montfort. The lists were arranged on an island near the abbey (probably where the cricket ground now is), and Essex fell pierced with many wounds. When he was removed to the abbey he revived, and subsequently became a monk. Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury, consecrated the great church of the abbey in 1164. Heraclius, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, here presented the keys of the Holy Sepulchre to the king in 1185, and asked for his aid in the Crusades. Important synods and Church councils were held in 1184, 1206, 1213, 1240, 1273, and 1279. Here the army of Henry III. assembled for the war with France. In 1254 the first extant charter was granted to the guild merchants of Reading.

Great rejoicings took place on the occasion of the marriage of John of Gaunt with Blanche of Lancaster, which was celebrated in the abbey church. Tilts and tournaments took place daily, and Chaucer celebrated the event in his poem, "The Dream."

When the plague raged in London in the 15th century, several parliaments were held at Reading; at one of these, in 1439, a new order of nobility, that of "viscount," was constituted. In the reign of Henry VIII., Reading Abbey shared the fate of other monasteries, and Hugh Farringdon and two of his monks were executed.

Queen Mary and her Spanish husband, Philip, were received with great ceremony, at the upper end of Silver Street, in 1554, when the mace was presented to her. Elizabeth visited the town on nine occasions, and a royal seat was appointed for her in St. Lawrence's Church. During the plague in 1625, Charles I. resided at Reading, where the Michaelmas term was kept, and the Court of

Chancery, King's Bench, Common Pleas, etc., were held in the hall of the abbey.

Prior to the breaking out of the Civil War the town was well fortified. The king established a garrison here. Two thousand men were quartered in the town in charge of Sir Arthur Aston, and several skirmishes took place in the neighbourhood. Reading was besieged by Essex, and defended bravely for fourteen days. The king and Prince Rupert attempted a rescue, but, after a fierce fight at Caversham Bridge, were repulsed. Cannon were placed by the besieged on the tower of St. Giles's Church, which was completely beaten down. At length the town passed into the hands of the Roundheads in 1643. "April 30th, being Sunday, was spent in preaching and hearing God's word, the churches being extraordinarily filled." Essex then evacuated the place to the king's troops, and Reading became the headquarters of the king's army, and Coley House the royal residence. In May, 1644, the king retired to Oxford, leaving Reading to his foes. The earthworks in the Forbury are the only remains of the fortifications which were once so strong.

The town was the scene of a panic in 1688, caused by part of the disbanded Irish soldiers of James II., which attained to such proportions as to receive the name of "the Irish Cry." This historical incident was long commemorated by the ringing of the church bells, and the popular ballad of the "Reading Skirmish," which told how

> "Five hundred Papishers came there
> To make a final end
> Of all the town in time of prayer,
> But God did them defend."

The absurd alarm soon spread through the kingdom, and it had the effect of giving birth to the political ballad of "Lilli-burlero." The town, however, soon recovered from the effects of these disasters.

From this period the town ceases to occupy a prominent position in the pages of our national history, but in quietude and peace has developed its resources, and continued to increase in prosperity and usefulness. The former industries, which once flourished here, have long since died out. Woollen manufacture, the making of cloth, pins, coarse linen, gauzes, silks, and ribbons, have been superseded by other industries of a large and important character.

The Biscuit Factory, the Berks Seed Establishment, the iron and tin works, employ a large number of workmen, and have raised the town to its present prosperous condition.

Reading Abbey, of which a mere shell remains to attest its former grandeur, was one of the most important and wealthy foundations in the kingdom, and disputed the palm in the South of England with those of Glastonbury, Abingdon, and St. Albans. It is told in "The Six Worthy Yeomen of the West," that Henry I. chose Reading as the site of the abbey which he founded on account of his regard for its fame for the manufacture of cloth; but the story can scarcely be vouched for, though Ashmole says that there have been upwards of seven score clothiers in this town.

The abbey was endowed with certain privileges, and gifted with the hand of St. James the Apostle—a relic that proved a constant source of wealth. Here were buried the devout king, his two wives, and his daughter Matilda. The remains of the king were brought hither for interment from Rouen, where he died some ten years after the foundation of the abbey. The king had directed his body to be buried here, which was done as he desired. His body, having been rudely embalmed, was wrapt in bull-hides and brought to Reading, where his interment was performed with great solemnity. His body rested there till the Dissolution of the monastery, when his tomb was destroyed by a crowd of people who were eager to find the silver coffin in which it was supposed the founder was buried.

Here also was interred the eldest son of Henry II. The abbey continued for four centuries to rear a succession of pious and learned men; but in the reign of Henry VIII. it excited the lust and avarice of the king, in whose eyes probably its greatest offence was the fact that its income was nearly 2000*l.* a year.* The abbot, refusing to surrender his house to the tyrant, was hung, drawn, and quartered, with two of the brethren, within sight of his own gateway. At the Dissolution the abbey fared neither better nor worse than most of the great monastic institutions. Most of the walls of the building, however, were standing until the Civil War, when they were thrown down by the Roundhead Puritans.

* This sum is equal to about £20,000 at the present time.

A few walls of the ancient church, the chapter-house and dormitory still stand, as a specimen of the massive strength of the buildings. In the "New and Complete British Traveller," published in 1794, it is stated that towards the E. end there was then standing a large room of semicircular form having five narrow windows and three doors, arched over, and apparently supporting a chapel, which was supposed to have been a burial-place for great personages. But this had disappeared early in the present century. The remains of the walls are several feet thick, and cemented together with mortar almost as hard as the stones themselves.

The Forbury, as a part outside the abbey walls is still called, is laid out as a pleasure-garden, and contains a Russian gun presented by the Government, and a colossal lion of cast-iron erected in 1886 as a memorial of the officers and men of the Berkshire Regiment who fell in the battle of Maiwand. The old abbey gateway still frowns down upon the Forbury on the south side, and is now the headquarters of the Berks Archæological Society.

Reading returned two members to Parliament from 1295 until 1885, when the representation was reduced to one. Judge Talfourd, well known also as a dramatic poet, sat for the borough from 1835 to 1841, and from 1847 to 1849.

There is a weekly market on Monday for fat cattle, and on Saturday for corn and stock cattle. There are cattle fairs on Feb. 2, May 1, July 25, and Sept. 21.

The municipal church of *St. Lawrence*, in the market-place, has an E.E. chancel; it was partially rebuilt in 1434. Queen Elizabeth frequently worshipped here, sitting in the canopied pew of the Knollys family. This church was restored in 1868. It consists of chancel, nave, N. aisle, porch, and a large square tower, containing a fine peal of ten bells. "During the restoration a discovery was made of a curious piece of marble sculpture, much mutilated, representing the 'Adoration of the Magi.'"—*Kelly*. The register dates from 1605. The church has some fine brasses and interesting memorials of departed worthies of Reading, amongst which is a curious one of John Blagrave, the mathematician.

St. Mary's Church, in Minster Street, founded on the site of an earlier structure, dates from 1551, and consists of a chancel, nave, S. aisle, porch, and tower containing eight

bells. Some of the materials of the building were brought from the abbey. The edifice was restored a few years ago, and the chancel enlarged and almost entirely rebuilt. The register dates from 1540. A painted window has been erected as a memorial to the 66th (Berkshire) Regiment, the old colours of which regiment hang in the church. The list of incumbents dates from 1173.

St. Giles's Church, in Horn Street, has a nave and chancel, aisles, porch, and tower surmounted by a spire. It was founded probably in Norman times; some fragments of capitals, &c., preserved in the tower are examples of the Norman style. The chief part of the old church belongs to the 14th century. The edifice was damaged by the artillery of the besiegers during the Civil War. It was completely restored in 1873. There are some good windows, and one ancient brass. The churchwardens' accounts, dating from 1518, are extremely interesting.

All Saints' Church, in the Bath Road, is a modern erection, consisting of nave and chancel, aisles, transept, and tower.

St. Saviour's Church has recently been built in Coley.

Trinity Church, in Oxford Street, was built in 1826, and is a plain quadrangular edifice of brick, with a stone front. It has recently been well restored.

The church of St. John the Evangelist, in Wellington Street, was erected in 1837, but rebuilt in 1872-3, and consists of chancel, nave, aisles, and transepts.

St. Stephen's Church, Child Street, is a brick edifice, and was built in 1866.

St. Luke's Church is a handsome brick building in the Redlands district.

St. Mary's episcopal chapel, in Castle Street, was erected in 1799, on the site of the old county gaol, by some seceders from the church of St. Giles, but was opened in 1836 in connection with the Church of England.

Grey Friars is an ecclesiastical district, formed in 1863, out of the parishes of St. Mary and St. Lawrence. The church, at the corner of Caversham Road, was formed from the remains of the ancient church of the monastery of the Grey Friars, N. and S. transepts being added. It consists of nave, aisles, and transepts. The Mendicant Friars came to Reading in 1233, and in 1306 received from Edward I. a grant of 56 oaks from Windsor Forest for their church. This after the Dissolution was granted to the corporation

for a guildhall; in 1613 it became a bridewell, until in 1860 it was rescued from its deplorable condition, and converted into a church.

St. Bartholomew's Church, Earley, built in 1879, and St. George's, Tilehurst, a new building, near the barracks, are also within the boundaries of the borough. The iron church of St. Mark is in the Oxford Road.

Christ Church, at the end of Kendrick Road, in the hamlet of Whitley, was built in 1863; it consists of chancel, N. aisle, N. transept, and tower at the N.W. corner. The church contains several stained-glass windows.

The Grammar School, now situated in Redlands, was founded in 1486, and thus ranks among the oldest schools in the country, being surpassed only by Eton, St. Paul's, and Winchester. This school has been placed lately under a new system, and large buildings have been added to it, and it has taken a high place among the leading public schools of the day. The foundation-stone of the present buildings was laid by the Prince of Wales in July, 1870, and the new schools were formally opened by the Lord Chancellor in 1871. The new schools consist of a large central hall, twelve class-rooms, and two masters' houses; also a chapel, and a residence for the head-master. There are about 12 acres of land adjoining, with cricket-ground, a "fives court," and a gymnasium. Many eminent and distinguished men have been educated at Reading School, amongst whom may be mentioned Sir Thomas White (1566), Archbishop Laud, John and Daniel Blagrave, James Merrick, Judge Talfourd, several bishops, and the celebrated Dr. Valpy was for fifty years head-master.

There are also a Blue Coat School for boys, a Green School for girls, the Kendrick Schools for both boys and girls of the middle class, and other schools on the British, National, and Board systems.

There are several meeting-houses for Dissenters, including Independents, Wesleyans, Presbyterians, Baptists, Unitarians, Primitive Methodists, &c. The Roman Catholic chapel, in the Forbury, was built at the expense of the late Mr. J. Wheble, of Bulmersh Park, from the designs of Pugin. A seal of one of the abbots is preserved in the vestry.

Reading Cemetery, on the outskirts of the town, in the parish of Earley, covers about 10 acres of ground, and was

opened in 1842. It is neatly laid out, and has two mortuary chapels.

The Town Hall, Municipal Buildings, Free Library, and Museum, are situated in Friar Street; the first town hall was erected in the reign of Elizabeth. It was rebuilt in 1785, and repaired and altered in 1863. It was an unpretending structure of red brick. A handsome new Town Hall, adjoining the old hall, was erected in 1882. The Municipal Buildings are constructed in the Gothic style of architecture, with a lofty tower and clock, designed by Mr. A. Waterhouse.

The Assize Courts, in the Forbury, stand on the site of an ancient hospital for poor pilgrims founded in connection with Reading Abbey. They were built in 1861, and are in the Italian style of architecture.

Worthies of Reading.—William, Archbishop of Bordeaux in the reign of Henry III., was born here; here, too, was born Archbishop Laud, the son of a clothier, at a house in Broad Street; Sir Thomas White, the founder of St. John's College, Oxford; Merrick, the poet; and the amiable and accomplished poet and lawyer, Judge Talfourd. Mr. John Blagrave, the famous mathematician, lived at Reading in the reigns of Elizabeth and James I. He lies buried in St. Lawrence's Church. An account of him, and his curious will bequeathing money to be thrown for by three maidens, is to be seen in Ashmole, Dr. Valpy was long the headmaster of the Reading Grammar School. Julius Palmer, its master, suffered at the stake in 1556. Reading was a place where John Bunyan was well known, as he often occupied the pulpit in one of its chapels. According to Southey, "The house in which the Anabaptists met for worship was in a lane there, and from the back door they had a bridge over the river Kennet, whereby, in case of alarm, they might escape. In a visit to that place, Bunyan contracted the disease which brought him to the grave. A friend of his who resided there had resolved to disinherit his son; the young man requested Bunyan to interfere in his behalf; he did so with good success, and it was his last labour of love, for, returning to London on horseback, through heavy rain, a fever ensued, which, after ten days, proved fatal."

Three miles S. of Reading on the Basingstoke road is *Three Mile Cross*, formerly the residence of Miss Mitford, the author of "Our Village." She afterwards removed to Swallowfield, where she died in January, 1855, and was

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buried in the churchyard under a lofty cross of Aberdeen granite.

Sonning is a charming village, with a picturesque old church, containing some curious monuments. It is described by Leland as "an upland town, set on fair and commodious ground, beneath which the Tamise runneth in a pleasant vale." At Sonning, in the days before the Reformation, there was a chapel which was an object of pilgrimage for persons wanting to be cured of madness.

According to Leland, Sonning was in the Saxon times the seat of a bishop's see, which was removed first to Sherborne and ultimately to Salisbury. The site of the episcopal palace is shown by a venerable ash-tree which crowns an ascent above the river. The church is of great antiquity, dating from 1200, and is the place of sepulture of the celebrated judge, Baron Stowell. In a house in the upper part of Sonning the witty Canon of St. Paul's, Sidney Smith, wrote "Peter Plymley's Letters." Holme Park (the seat of the Rev. H. Golding-Palmer) abuts upon the river at this point. It is well laid out, has a great number of fine trees, and affords from many parts some beautiful views, both up and down the stream. Sonning is much resorted to by anglers; there is a comfortable inn (the *White Hart*), and the river affords fair sport.

Earley, adjoining Sonning, has a station on the Reading and Reigate branch of the S.E.R. St. Peter's Church, built in 1844, comprises chancel, nave, and transepts, is in the E.E. style of architecture, and has been recently restored. Reading Cemetery is in this parish; and the district contains several gentlemen's seats, among them Whiteknights, formerly belonging to the Dukes of Marlborough, and once well known for its elegant gardens; and Earley Court, belonging to Viscount Sidmouth.

Below Shiplake (which is on the Oxfordshire side) the Thames receives the numerous channels of the Loddon:

"The Loddon slow, with verdant alders crown'd."—POPE.

At *Wargrave*, a pretty and straggling village, the church is an interesting building showing some early Roman work, containing several monuments of the Ximenes family and other notable personages. It contains the dust and monument of the eccentric Thomas Day, the author of "Sandford and Merton," who was thrown from his horse and killed near here. Madame Tussaud, of waxwork fame, lies in

the churchyard. The village is most picturesque, and is constantly visited in summer by fishermen and artists. There are several good inns. The signboard of the George and Dragon was painted by two well-known artists, Mr. George Leslie, R.A., and Mr. J. D. Hodgson, R.A., during one of their visits to the village.

Culham Court, 2½m. N., is a well-built mansion, from the grounds of which the windings of the Thames through this part of its course are seen to great advantage. and extensive views are attained of the wood-crowned undulations of the Chiltern Hills.

That portion of the Thames lying between Wargrave and Maidenhead is generally admitted to be the finest in point of scenery along its course. "Now the river is expanded to a considerable width, and we no longer meet with any of those close shady, secluded scenes. It is altogether on a larger scale; the river is still shallow, but it exhibits a breadth and boldness far beyond what we have hitherto seen."—*Rambles by Rivers.*

Park Place, the seat of Mrs. Noble, which we now pass, extends for a considerable distance along the heights above the river. The mansion was originally built by the Duke of Hamilton, and was for some time the residence of Frederick, Prince of Wales, the father of George III.; in later times it was the frequent resort of another Prince of Wales, afterwards George IV., and subsequently the favourite residence of the first Earl of Malmesbury. It is to the grounds surrounding the house that Park Place owes its fame. "The surface is broken into hill and dale, and long sloping lawns, and glades decked with majestic trees, and deep glens, and by the river are hanging woods and steep chalk cliffs. From the hills splendid prospects are obtained, and the valleys afford a grateful variety of cool shady bowers, with sunny peeps beyond, and retired nooks where nought disturbs the privacy."—*Rambles by Rivers.*

Among the curiosities to be seen here is a Druids' temple, not a mere artificial ruin, but "a genuine Druidic relic brought here from Jersey." It comprises some 45 stones in all, generally about 7 feet in height; and they are arranged in a circle, said to be in the exact positions which they occupied in the original situation in the neighbourhood of St. Heliers, whence they were brought hither in 1785. "The mansion was rebuilt by Mr. Noble in the French Italian style; it is situated on the brow of a high range of

hills, 300 feet above the level of the river Thames, and in the centre of a well-wooded park, of about 900 acres, which is entered by seven lodges. One of the numerous attractions of Park Place is its picturesque scenery, which is scarcely equalled for its beautiful and various prospects; to the east of the mansion is a magnificent cedar planted by his Majesty George III."—*Kelly*.

Soon we pass underneath *Henley Bridge*, with its two fine masks of the "Thames" and "Isis," sculptured by the Hon. Mrs. Damer; it joins Remenham to Henley-on-Thames in Oxfordshire. In 1m. we arrive at the village of *Remenham*, situated at the foot of a beautifully-wooded ridge. Remenham Church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, was "restored" in 1870, in the E.E. style; the chancel apse, which remains in its original condition, is ancient. The register dates from 1697.

The part of the river from Temple Island (a modern structure) to Henley Bridge is the well-known course of the Henley Regatta. The house of the late Mr. W. H. Smith is on the Oxfordshire side of the river, below the island. On the same side, about 1½m. from Hambledon Lock, stands Medmenham Abbey, founded by Hugh de Bolebec for Cistercian monks.

Hurley, a picturesque village with many old timbered houses, is next reached. Adjoining it, in a cedar-girdled meadow, moulder the mossy remains of *Lady Place*, once the residence of Richard Lord Lovelace, who interfered actively to promote the Revolution of 1688. The mansion, "built by his ancestors out of the spoils of Spanish galleons from the Indies, rose on the ruins of a house of Our Lady in this beautiful valley, through which the Thames, not yet defiled by the precincts of a great capital, rolls under woods of beach, and round the gentle hills of Berks. Beneath the stately saloon, adorned by Italian pencils, was a subterraneous vault, in which the bones of ancient monks had sometimes been found. In this dark chamber some zealous and daring opponents of the Government held many midnight conferences during that anxious time, when England was impatiently expecting the Protestant wind."—*Macaulay*.

Here Geoffrey de Mandeville founded, in the reign of William I., a cell for Benedictine monks, subject to Westminster Abbey. "The foundation of the original monastery still remains, forming a vault, where, in the

year 1838, three bodies of monks in their Benedictine habits were found."—*Kelly*.

The old house of Lady Place was pulled down in 1838, but the quadrangle and refectory (now converted into stables), and also the cellars or vaults, still remain, having been carefully repaired a few years ago. The estate, which formerly belonged to the Williamses, of Temple House, is now the property of Mr. Arthur Lobb.

Hurley Church was founded in 1086, by Osmond the Good, Count of Seez, in Normandy, afterwards Earl of Dorset and Lord High Chancellor of England, and still exhibits some interesting Norman details. The edifice, which consists of chancel and nave, and is dedicated to St. Mary, was "restored" in 1852, at a cost of nearly 1500*l*.; the original windows on the N. side, which had long been closed, were reopened, and those on the S. side repaired. A vestry room was added to the E. end of the church, separated from the chancel only by a screen of Norman architecture. There are several monuments, including one to the Lovelace family, and Editha, sister of King Edward the Confessor, was also buried here.

Near the centre of the parish of Hurley is Hall Place (Sir Gilbert A. Clayton-East, Bart.), which stands in an extensive park, noted for its avenues of lime-trees, and containing about 100 head of deer.

At *Bisham* we meet with one of the most interesting mansions in Berks, which is also one of the most picturesque objects on the banks of the Thames. Here, in a low but picturesque situation on the banks of the Thames, there was a house of the Knights Templars, founded by Robert de Ferrers in the reign of Stephen; but it afterwards gave place to an Augustinian priory, which continued down to the Dissolution of monasteries. The chief gateway is still standing, and forms the entrance to Bisham Abbey, now the residence of G. H. Vansittart, Esq. Several rooms of the old abbey are embodied in the modern mansion, which is built on the site of that famous religious house which William Earl of Salisbury founded in 1338, and within whose walls he was laid to rest. There also were interred the remains of a gallant earl who fell at the siege of Orleans, 1428; Henry V.; Richard Neville, Earl of York, 1460; the king-making Earl of Warwick, 1470; and Edward Plantagenet, son of the Duke of Clarence, beheaded in 1499 for attempting to escape from prison. The church, which

contains some Norman details, has been enlarged within the last half-century.

The Princess Elizabeth was confined here for nearly three years, during the reign of her jealous sister. Temple House, the seat of Lieut.-Gen. Owen L. C. Williams, J.P., is situated in this parish. The house is a fine modern building. The grounds extend to the river.

On leaving the groves of Bisham, we come in sight of the graceful suspension bridge of *Great Marlow* (which will be described under Bucks), and soon shoot across the lake-like expanse of the Thames at Winter Hill. Below it is *Cookham*, a pretty village with a fine old church, and we are now within sight of that part of the abounding river which supplies its most luxurious beauties. "The river here closes in, or seems to do so; for although in reality wide, it is narrowed to the eye by the steep hills which rise from the bank on its eastern side, clothed in varied foliage from the base to the summit. Those who accuse our great island river of insipidity, who, if they concede its claims to beauty, deny its pretensions to grandeur, will do well to visit the scenery between Hedsor and Maidenhead—to row beneath the thick woods of Taplow and Cliefden (or Cliveden), and, looking up, they will have no difficulty in imagining themselves in one of the grandest and richest, in picturesque attractions, of our English lakes; indeed, they will require only the near and distant mountains to fancy themselves under the heights of Glena, in all-beautiful Killarney."—*Mrs. S. C. Hall.*

"There are few things that add more to the beauty of the Thames, or are more characteristic of it, than its *aits*, as the little islands, or rather islets, are called, with which it is studded through the greater part of its upper and middle course. These are extremely numerous, occurring everywhere, sometimes singly and far apart, and sometimes in clusters; and they are almost as various and beautiful as they are numerous. Not many of them are of any great size, and only two or three have dwellings upon them; excepting such as are used for locks, when it is not uncommon for the lock-keeper's house to be built on the ait; but several have toy-houses, taking the form or name of temple, or grotto, or summer-house, according to the taste of the proprietor. Some of them are planted with groups of good-sized trees, such as ash and abeles, and others that will thrive in damp soils; but the alder and the

willow are the most common, and perhaps are most suitable for the situation. The smaller aits are generally planted with osiers. As these aits occur in the shallows, they are frequently surrounded by beds of rushes; while the willow-herb, and the tall loose-strife, and the similar flowers that love such places, grow in marvellous profusion about them, so that they are often encompassed by a belt of brilliant colours."—*Rambles by Rivers.* Quite a cluster of these aits, or eyots, is to be met with just below Great Marlow Bridge.

In the bend of the river, off Cookham Marsh, the Thames is crossed by the Wycombe branch of the G.W.R.

Cookham is an extensive parish, the houses being scattered widely about. It is "situated on the west bank of the river Thames, on the Bucks side of which are the highly picturesque and richly cultivated domains of Cliveden, Hedsor, and Taplow. The portion of the river Thames from Maidenhead up to Cookham Lock is considered the most beautiful in the whole course from Oxford to London." The church stands at the foot of the bridge, and has a pleasing appearance as seen from the river; it is dedicated to the Holy Trinity, is an ancient building of E.E. architecture, with fragments of Norman work; it comprises chancel, nave, aisles, and tower; and several of the windows are filled with stained glass.

Here is a station on the branch line of the G.W.R. from Maidenhead to High Wycombe, Thame, and Oxford.

Cookham Dean, 1m. W. from Cookham railway station, is an ecclesiastical parish, formed in 1845 out of the parish of Cookham. The district is partly situated on an eminence about 250 feet above the level of the Thames, and partly in a dell. The church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, was built in 1845, and is in the Early Dec. style of the 13th century. Pinkneys Green and North Town are outlying hamlets in the parish of Cookham. Stubbings is an ecclesiastical parish formed in 1856 from the parishes of Cookham, Bisham, and a portion of Pinkneys Green. The church, dedicated to St. James, was built in 1850, in the Dec. style; it has since been enlarged.

Cookham Bridge is an iron structure, which has replaced the old wooden bridge, erected about 1842, to supersede the old ferry, which formerly connected the road from Maidenhead to Wickham.

Formerly there was a ferry at Balham End, about 2m.

above the town of Maidenhead, which place was scarcely known till a bridge built there brought traffic through it.

The principal mansion between Cookham and Maidenhead is Formosa, the seat of Sir George Young, Bart.

MAIDENHEAD (pop. 10,607), a small market town of one long street, is said to derive its name from the head of one of the Eleven Thousand Virgins having been preserved here, but is merely corrupted from Maiden- (or Midden-) hythe, from its timber wharf, which existed here before the highroad ran through it. The place was formerly called Midan or Midden Hithe (or midway wharf between Marlow and Windsor), then Maidenhithe,* from which again its present name is a corruption. It is not of any great antiquity as a town, and, in fact, has not been till lately a parish, standing partly in Bray and partly in Cookham. Its importance arose from the erection of a wooden bridge† across the Thames, which had the effect of bringing through it the main road to the West of England, instead of a mile or two northward. The old chapel or chantry which marked the river ford stood till 1724 at Chapel Arches. This bridge was superseded by a handsome stone bridge, erected at the end of the last century. The town was first incorporated into a guild 26 Edward III.; a chapel dedicated to St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalen had been already erected, and a chaplain supplied from the Priory at Hurley. After the Reformation it was incorporated by the name of the "Warden and Burgesses of Maidenhead." James II. granted a new charter, changing them to Mayor, Bridgemaster, and Burgesses.

Owing to its important situation, the town is noted for its numerous inns, the principal of which are the *Bear* and the *White Hart*. The G.W.R. crosses the Thames about 200 yards below the stone bridge by a brick bridge, designed by Sir J. Brunel. It has the greatest span ever attempted in brick.

The Town Hall, a small brick and stone building, is used for the meetings of the borough magistrates, and also as a corn exchange. The corporation possess a very hand-

* Maidenhead received a charter of incorporation from Edward III. under the name of Maiden*hithe*, the term *hithe* or *hythe* being generally applied to a wharf below a town.

† By an Act of Parliament under James II. the corporation were empowered to cut down timber in Windsor Forest for the repair of this bridge.

some mace of the period of Charles II., and other insignia of office. The corporation seal is ancient, and was originally a private seal. It has been in use since 1582.

A weekly market is held on Wednesday, and there are three fairs annually, viz.: Wednesday in Whitsun week, St. Mary Magdalen's Day (July 22), and St. Thomas's Day (December 21).

The Hambletonian Grand Hall, built in 1876, is a large edifice, used for balls, concerts, lectures, &c.

At Maidenhead Charles I. was allowed by the Parliament to see his children, after several years' separation, July 16, 1647. The interview took place at the *Greyhound Inn;* the town was decked with green boughs, and flowers adorned its streets. They dined there, and afterwards rode to Caversham, in Oxfordshire, opposite to Reading, where they spent two days together.

Maidenhead Thicket is the name of a common about 2m. W. of the town, on the Oxford road, renowned in the last century as a resort of highwaymen. The Vicar of Hurley, who conducted divine service at Maidenhead, was allowed an extra salary of £50 to atone for the danger of passing through the thicket. Here some "pit dwellings" have been discovered. In 1885 a Roman villa was found at Castle Hill. It contained numerous examples of Roman and British pottery, a bath, and many interesting relics.

The manor of Ives, in the lower part of the town, formerly belonged to the Hospital of St. Nicholas at York.

Maidenhead has now five churches, St. Andrew and St. Mary's, St. Luke's, St. Paul's, St. Peter's, and St. Mark's. "The church of St. Andrew and St. Mary Magdalene was originally a chantry, founded by Margaret of France, second consort of Edward I., in 1270, when the first building was erected in the centre of the High Street. It was rebuilt on the same site in 1724; in 1825-6 it was taken down, and the present building erected at the east end of High Street."—*Kelly.*

There is also a very handsome church in the Dec. style on Boyne Hill, 1m. W., with schools adjoining, erected mainly by the late Rev. W. Gresley. Boyne Hill was formed, in 1858, into an ecclesiastical parish out of the neighbouring parish of Bray.

In a villa between the two bridges, Mr. John Payne Collier, the veteran Shakespearian critic, spent the latter years of his life. From Maidenhead a dull and uninterest-

ing mile of river takes us between low and level meadows on either side to Bray.

Bray (pop. 6423), the supposed site of the Roman station *Bibracte*, is a large and prosperous village, with a goodly church, dedicated to St. Michael. It is a fine specimen of the 13th century, built on the site of an ancient Saxon church in 1293, and was repaired and restored in 1859, at a great cost, under the superintendence of Mr. Thomas Wyatt. The register dates from 1656. The lich-gate of Bray is well known. The parish is very extensive, and constitutes a hundred along with Maidenhead. Ashmole gives a long record of curious monumental inscriptions in this church to the members of the Norreys and Foxley families.

It is asserted that a former minister of this parish, by his accommodating changes from Popery to Protestantism, and back again, suggested the popular ballad entitled "The Vicar of Bray," and a traditional nickname for any religious or political turncoat. It is to be feared, however, that an examination of the parish registers would be fatal to any such a poetical story. Old Fuller, in his "Worthies of England," says: "The vivacious vicar there, living under King Henry VIII., King Edward VI., Queen Mary, and Queen Elizabeth, was first a Papist, then a Protestant, then a Papist, then a Protestant again. He had seen some martyrs burnt (two miles off) at Windsor, and found this fire too hot for his tender temper. This vicar being taxed by one for being a turncoat and an inconstant changeling, —'Not so,' said he, 'for I always kept my principle, which is this—to live and die the Vicar of Bray.' Hence the song:

> 'That whatsoever king shall reign,
> Still I'll be the Vicar of Bray, sir.'"

To the S. of the church is a college for forty poor persons, with a chapel and chaplain's residence, known as Jesus Hospital. It was founded by Mr. William Goddard in 1627, and is governed by the Fishmongers' Company. The building consists of a chapel and forty houses, erected in the form of a square, having gardens both in the centre and at the back of the buildings. Six of the inmates must be free of the Fishmongers' Company; a single man or woman is allowed 7*s.* per week, a man and his wife 12*s.*, and all the other occupants, who are parishioners of Bray, have when single 4*s.* 6*d.*, when married 6*s.* 6*d.*, per week besides other allowances.

There are several other charitable institutions here for the benefit of the poor of the parish.

Redstone Farm and Pond, at the southern end of the parish, were probably so called from a large red stone set up there to mark the boundaries of Bray and White Waltham.

Cruchfield, at Hawthorn Hill, on the borders of this parish, is called by Thomas Hearne "Crukesfend," and he mentions it as having been the king's dairy.

In this parish, about 2m. from Maidenhead, is one of the finest specimens of an old manor-house of the 15th century, with quaint timber gables, called Ockwells, once a seat of the Norreys family, and afterwards of the Powneys. It is now a farmhouse, and belongs to the Grenfells. In the hall is an oriel window filled with the armorial bearings of the former owners, and those of Abingdon Abbey. The doors are of great strength, and curiously carved. The great dining-hall and minstrels' gallery are perfect. Here are preserved the boots and sword said to have belonged to the Protector Cromwell.

A little below Bray Lock on the Thames is Monkey Island, so called from a large pavilion or banqueting house erected on it by a Duke of Marlborough in the last century, in which are paintings of monkeys engaged in fishing, dining, &c., in imitation of an apartment in the once royal palace at Chantilly in France. The island formerly belonged to the Palmers of Dorney.

At Holyport in this parish is a manor-house called "Filberts," or "Philberds," which stands on the site of a mansion once occupied by Nell Gwynne. It is now a school. Here, and at Bray Wick, are three or four goodly country seats. Bray Wick Lodge and Cannon Hill are seats in this neighbourhood.

Down Place (Col. F. Harford), on the banks of the river opposite to Dorney, was formerly inhabited by Jacob Tonson, so well known in connection with the "Kit Cat" Club, the portraits of whose members, now at Bayfordbury in Hertfordshire, once hung round its walls.

In a bend of the river we pass Surley Hall, so well known to fishermen and Etonians. It is here that the boats' crews of Eton assemble and sup in the meadows on every "Fourth of June."

Clewer (pop. 9296) was formerly in possession of the Lords Sandys, but passed into the hands of Edward VI.

The place was formerly called Cleworth, and figures as such in the pages of Ashmole. Its church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is built in the Norman style of architecture; it has a broach shingled spire. There is an interesting brass to the memory of the famous archer, Martin Expence, who "shott with 100 men himselfe alone at ould field at Bray." A considerable part of the western end of Windsor is in Clewer parish.

St. Stephen's Church, consecrated in 1874, is in the E.E. style, and is constructed of brick with stone dressings. Attached to St. Stephen's is a handsome Church of England convent for ladies, with a reformatory and hospital, and a beautiful Gothic chapel.

In this parish, about ½m. from Windsor towards the forest, was a mineral purging spring, mentioned by Ashmole as having been formerly much frequented, and known by the name of Elias's Spital, now St. Peter's Well, where is also said to have stood a small religious house, perhaps a hermitage, "for the entertainment of travellers" (*Ashmole*). This is near the barracks. The name Spital is still retained.

On the high ground near to Winkfield, but actually in Clewer, is St. Leonard's, formerly called Gloucester Lodge, built by the Countess Dowager Waldegrave, afterwards Duchess of Gloucester. A great part of the house was rebuilt in 1876. It was afterwards the seat of Earl Harcourt, and is now the residence of F. T. Barry, Esq., M.P. It is in the modern Gothic style, and commands extensive views over the Vale of Thames. It is said to stand on the site of a Roman encampment, and a Roman lamp found here, and presented by Sir Hans Sloane to the Society of Antiquaries, has been adopted by the latter as a crest. The site was afterwards occupied as a hermitage, and traditionally dedicated to St. Leonard.

At St. Leonard's hill have been dug up many Roman coins, pottery, &c., and proofs have been found of a forge or manufactory.

[St. Leonard would seem to have been the tutelary saint of Windsor Forest and its environs, for on part of the ground now occupied by the gardens of Ritching's Park, near Colnbrook, was another hermitage which bore his name.]

We skirt a pleasant grassy bank, enlivened by verdant slopes and leafy knolls, until arriving within the shadow

of classic *Eton* and royal-towered *Windsor*. Of the royal town and its palace castle, which is seen to great advantage from the river-side here, we shall speak presently. We pass beneath the *Victoria Bridge*, which unites Windsor with the pretty village of Datchet; and a mile or two lower down, the *Albert Bridge*, built in 1851. Threading our way through some graceful islets, we next reach

Old Windsor, formerly a place of consequence, but now eclipsed by the lustre of its younger daughter. The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is of E.E. architecture, and was restored in 1864. Here is buried Mrs. Robinson, famous for her acting in the Shakespearian character of "Perdita," and her unhappy attachment to George IV. when Prince Regent.

Beaumont Lodge, in this parish, formerly the residence of Warren Hastings, and afterwards of Lord Ashbrook, is now occupied as a Roman Catholic Educational College, under priests of the Jesuit Order. It was honoured by a visit from Queen Victoria in March, 1882.

A mile beyond, a little below an inn called the *Bells of Ouseley*, we enter the county of Surrey, and our voyage in the fair Valley of the Thames is accordingly terminated.

RIVERS OF BERKSHIRE.

1. The Kennet; 2. the Loddon; 3. the Ock; 4. the Auburn (or Enborne); 5. the Lambourne.

1. The Kennet.

"The Kennet swift, for silver eels renown'd,"

rises in Wiltshire, enters Berkshire near *Hungerford* (*a*), flows past *Avington* (*b*), *Enborne* (*c*), and *Speen* (*d*), to *Newbury* (*e*), and thence, by way of *Woolhampton* (*f*), into the Thames near Reading. Near Avington it receives the Lambourne, which has its source in the chalk hills above the town of that name. Near *Aldermaston* (*g*) it is swelled by the Auburn, which rises near *Inkpen* (*h*), and flows E. for 17m. Both the Kennet and the Lambourne are favourite streams for anglers, and produce trout, pike, eels, barbel, crayfish, chub, roach, dace, and perch; and the former river is both clear and rapid.

In Ashmole's time (1719) the Kennet had lately been made navigable up to Aldermaston.

(*a*) *Hungerford*, situated on the Kennet and the Kennet and the Avon Canal, is a favourite anglers' town, and even in Evelyn's time, "a towne famous for its troutes." It was anciently called Ingleford Charman, from its position as the Ford of the Angles on the Herman Street, an ancient Roman road. Dr. Chandler, the theologian, was born here in 1693. The parish church, dedicated to St. Lawrence, is modern, built on the site of an older edifice. The register dates from 1559. Inns: the *Bear* and the *Three Swans*.

Hungerford gave name and title to the ancient family of Hungerford. The curious custom of holding manors by tenure of a horn is illustrated here. The town possesses

two horns—one, said to have been given as a charter to the town by King John, held about a quart of liquid; the other, bearing the date 1634, is of brass, and is not a drinking-horn, but a bugle, which is used to summon the tenants to the Manor Court, and was formerly blown annually on Hock Tuesday to assemble the inhabitants to choose the constable, in whom is vested the municipal government of the town. This horn bears the inscription:

"John of Gaun did give and grant the riall fishing to Hungerford Towne from Eldven Stub to Irish Stil, excepting some several Mil Pound.
"Jehosphat Lucas was Constable."

The Hock-tide Court is held annually on the second Tuesday after Easter, when, after the business of the town has been transacted, two officers are appointed whose privilege it is to kiss all the maidens in the town whom they meet on a certain day. Some curious old charters are preserved in the town chest.

The Free Grammar School was founded in 1653, by Dr, Sheaf.

The Town Hall and Corn Exchange were built in 1870, and are available for concerts, &c.

(*b*) *Avington* has "a very curious and fine Nor. church" which measures only 75 feet by 14 feet 7 inches. It has been recently restored. "The S. door of the nave is a good example of a shafted Nor. arch, with bead and dog-tooth ornaments; the font is a unique circular one, adorned with cable moulding and thirteen rudely sculptured figures, most of them in ecclesiastical vestments; two are archbishops in palls, one seated and one in attitude of benediction; two are bishops in copes, one with crosier and one with pastoral staff; two are priests in albs, one with hands crossed in prayer and one in the embrace of the foul fiend; two are priests giving each other the kiss of peace; two are ecclesiastical lawyers in copes, one with brief in hand and one with a lord chancellor's wig; the foul fiend, with horns and cloven feet, is twice repeated; and the thirteenth is indescribable, except as probably representing one decollated, with his head in his own hands."—*Kelly*.

(*c*) *Enborne* contains two ancient manors in which a custom prevailed that if a widow of a copyholder was

guilty of incontinency, she forfeited her life-interest in her husband's copyhold, and could recover it only by riding into court on a black ram, and repeating some vulgar rhymes. The custom is explained in Addison's *Spectator*, No. 623. Enborne Church, dedicated to St. Michael, is of Nor. architecture, and consists of nave and chancel.

In this neighbourhood is *Hampstead Marshall*, so called, according to Ashmole, because it "formerly belonged to the Earl Marshal of England, and was held by the tenure of the Rod of the Marshalsea." The manor was formerly attached to the ancient office of Earl Marshal of England, an office successively held by many eminent worthies. It is now a seat of the Earl of Craven, and is occupied by J. Bishop, Esq. In the church lies buried Sir Balthazer Gerbier. The manor of Hampstead Marshall belonged to Sir Thomas Parry, Treasurer of the Queen's Household in the reign of Elizabeth, but about 1620 it was purchased by the Cravens. About 1662, "the house built by Sir T. Parry having been pulled down, Sir Balthazer Gerbier began a stately pile of building after the model of the Castle of Heidelberg, which was finished in 1665; the house was almost wholly destroyed by fire in 1718."—*Kelly*. The present mansion was erected by the first Earl of Craven, in the heavy Italian style so common in the last century. It was begun about 1720, but long left unfinished. It has been from time to time enlarged. The park, upwards of 400 acres in extent, contains several small lakes.

(*d*) *Speen*, the site of the Roman Station called *Spinæ*, 1½m. N.W. from Newbury, is a large parish and village, bounded on the S. by the river Kennet, and the Kennet and Avon Canal. The church, E.E., dedicated to St. Mary, was almost entirely rebuilt in 1860, with the exception of the ancient N. aisle and chancel; the tower has been since rebuilt. In the N. aisle is an altar-tomb to John Baptist Castillion, a Piedmontese, who died in 1597; there is also a monument to Dame Elizabeth Castillion, who died in 1603, and there are also several monuments to the Craven family. The register dates from 1629.

Speenhamland, which was included in this parish, forms the northern part of the town of Newbury. It was formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1844. The Church of St. Mary, erected in 1830, is a Gothic building of freestone.

Benham Park (Sir Richard F. Sutton, Bart.), in this parish, comprises about 200 acres, including wood. The mansion is in the Italian style, and was formerly the residence of the late Margrave and Margravine of Anspach. There is a lake in front of the house.

(*e*) *Newbury* is one of the most ancient towns in Berks. The Roman station, *Spinæ*, stood near here, and a Roman cemetery was discovered near the present railway station. In the time of the Saxons a chieftain named Ulward held the place, which consisted of 52 houses. In Domesday it was called *Uluritone*. A castle was built here by the Normans, which was captured by Stephen after a vigorous siege. All traces of this stronghold have disappeared. King John frequently came here from his palace at Freemantle Park, near Kingsclere, and is said to have taken refuge in the house of a poor spinning-woman when pursued by the insurgent barons.*

In the 15th century Newbury was a great centre of the cloth trade, and John Winchcombe, better known as "Jack of Newbury," and Thomas Dolman, attained to great wealth and fame. The latter built Shaw House, a stately Elizabethan mansion, which was gallantly defended by Sir Thomas Dolman during the Civil War. This is one of the finest houses of the period in England, and most interesting from its historical associations. There is a hole in the wainscoting of one of the rooms which was made by a shot aimed at Charles I.

The town was incorporated by Queen Elizabeth, and additional privileges were granted by the Stuart monarchs. It was the scene of two great battles in the Civil War. The first was fought in September, 1643, and the result was favourable to the Parliamentarians. Six thousand men were slain, including the chivalrous and patriotic Lord Falkland.

"On this field
Did Falkland fall, the blameless and the brave."
SOUTHEY.

The house in which he stayed before the battle still stands in Cheap Street.

A handsome memorial has been erected to Lord Falkland on the battlefield, by public subscription (principally local). It was inaugurated by Lord Carnarvon, with much cere-

* *Cf.* "History of Berkshire," by Col. Cooper King.

mony, in September, 1878. The memorial also commemorates Lord Carnarvon, Lord Sunderland, and other Royalist officers who fell in this engagement.

The second battle was fought on the 27th of October, 1644, and terminated to the disadvantage of the Royalists. Mr. W. Money, F.S.A., has published a full and detailed account of these engagements.

Newbury is now a flourishing market town. Owing to railway development, the trade of the town is being rapidly extended. It lies "round the fine old gray church, on the banks of the swift Kennet." The principal inns are *Jack of Newbury* and *White Hart*. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is Perp., with a stately tower, erected about 1510 by the famous "Jack of Newbury," an opulent and patriotic clothier, named John Winchcombe (otherwise Smalwood), who had acquired his wealth by his energy and industry, and married the widow of his employer, and who had the courage to oppose the potent Wolsey. The church was "restored," under the direction of Mr. Woodyer, architect, in 1865-7. The monogram of "Jack of Newbury" (J. S.) occurs very frequently on the bosses of the roof of the nave. He died in 1519, and there is a brass plate with effigy to his memory affixed to the wall of the tower. King Henry VIII. and Queen Katherine visited the worthy clothier, and were royally entertained, and Queen Elizabeth once stayed in the same house with his son.

The Church of St. John the Evangelist, consecrated in 1860, is a brick building in the Dec. style. It was built by Miss Hubbard, in memory of her parents, from the designs of Mr. Butterfield.

There are chapels for Roman Catholics, Wesleyans, Primitive Methodists, Independents, Baptists, Presbyterians, and the Society of Friends. The cemetery, a short distance from the town, contains separate chapels for members of the Church of England and Dissenters.

The Literary and Scientific Institution possesses a library of over 2,000 volumes, together with a museum containing objects of general and local interest.

The Corn Exchange, in the market-place, was opened in 1862; it is the most commodious in the county, and the corn market held here is one of the largest in this part of England. A very important wool market was established here in 1862, and is held annually on June 30th. Other fairs

are held here on Holy Thursday, July 5th, September 4th, and November 8th.

New municipal offices, with a handsome and lofty clock-tower, have been recently erected from the designs of Mr. J. H. Money, architect. New gasworks have also been erected.

Newbury formerly returned members to Parliament, but petitioned to be relieved from that duty on account of the expense! The request was granted.

The insignia of the corporation are good, comprising two fine silver maces, one of the Stuart era, with crown and bowl, and one later; some silver spoons, plates and a borough seal. Most of the town plate was melted in the cause of Charles I.

Newbury possesses several charitable institutions. The Hospital of St. Bartholomew, the charter of which is said to have been granted by King John, has an annual income of 900*l*. It supports 24 almshouses, and a free school, called the St. Bartholomew Grammar School.

"Here is a chapel, called the Litten, in which prayers are said once a week for the benefit of the almspeople: at this chapel John Smalwood, the famous clothier, and commonly known as 'Jack of Newbury,' is stated to have been married. This 'Jack' furnished 100 of his own men, clothed, and paid them, for King Henry, and sent them to Flodden Field. Henry afterwards visited 'Jack of Newbury, and was by him entertained in great state. It is said that when the king visited Jack he attended divine service at the parish church, when Jack covered the streets with cloth, upon which the king offered him knighthood, which, however, Jack courteously declined."—*Kelly*.

Newbury has frequently been honoured by royal visits, and the Prince of Orange passed through the town on his way from Torbay to London in 1688. The local archæology of Newbury has been well set forth in the published volumes of the Newbury District Field Club, a local archæological society.

Newbury had its "martyrs" in the fiery times of trial and persecution; in fact, according to Fuller, it was one of the first places in England to "receive the doctrines of the Reformation." In 1518 we find one "Christopher the Shoemaker" burnt there at the stake for heresy; and Julius Palmer, and two others, suffered on July 16th, 1556, in a similar manner.

[*Sandleford*, about 1½m. S. of Newbury, is situated on a small stream called the Auburn, which here forms the boundary between the counties of Berks and Hants. "The inhabitants attend the church of Newbury. By a decree obtained by Sir Francis More in His Majesty's Court of Exchequer, in the reign of King James, Sandleford was declared to be 'no part of the parish of Newbury, nor so to be reputed,' and instead of the tithes and other ecclesiastical dues, which had been theretofore paid to the parson of Newbury, a charge of 8*l.* per annum was substituted, which 8*l.* per annum is still paid to the Rector of Newbury. Like many other extra-parochial places, Sandleford formerly belonged to a religious foundation. The priory of Sandleford was founded before 1205, by Geoffrey, Earl of Perche, Earl Marshal of England, and Maud his wife, for canons of the Augustinian Order, and the church of Sandleford, being then the church of St. John the Baptist, with the lands of Sandleford, was by them 'assigned and given to the perpetual service of God and of the Blessed Virgin Mary and All Saints, to hold in free alms, as by the deed of the same foundation and gift now showeth forth appeareth,' which gift was confirmed by King Henry III., in the seventeenth year of his reign, by patent under the Great Seal of England, and by an ancient Bull of Pope Gregory VI. in the year 1139. The Earl of Perche was one of the Norman barons who came in with William the Conqueror, who gave to him the town and manor of Newbury; the priory was annexed in the reign of Edward IV. to the King's Free Chapel of St. George, Windsor. The present mansion, called Sandleford Priory, includes a portion of the monastic building, the ancient chapel forming a dining-room. The Priory is now the property of Alpine Macgregor, Esq., who is lord of the manor and the principal landowner. The house is inhabited by Mrs. Hartman."—*Kelly.*] Mrs. Montagu, of Blue Stocking fame, the centre of the literary coterie of which Johnson, Goldsmith, and Reynolds, &c., were distinguished members, spent much of her earlier life here.

On the walls of Sandleford Church was this inscription:

> "Lancea, crux, Clavi, Spinæ, Mors quam tolerari,
> Demonstrant qua vi miserorum crimina lavi;
> In cruce sum pro te; qui peccas, desine pro Me;
> Desine; do veniam; dic culpam; corrige vitam."

(*f*) *Woolhampton*, 7m. E., is a small and pretty village.

The church, dedicated to St. Peter, is of Gothic architecture, and was built in 1861, in the place of an E.E. structure. The register dates from 1636. The principal seat in the neighbourhood is Woolhampton House (Mrs. Burn-Blyth). There is a Roman Catholic church and school at Woolhampton.

(*g*) *Aldermaston* is celebrated for its noble seat of Aldermaston Court (Higford Higford, Esq.), whose park contains upwards of one thousand acres of finely varied scenery—swelling hills, lowly dales, ferny combes, and groves of oak, and thorn, and yew. Close to the house—a modern Elizabethan mansion, rebuilt by Hardwick in 1856, after partial destruction by fire—stands the partly Nor. church, containing the tomb of the dramatist Congreve. A doorway built into the wall of the tower is said to be Saxon work. The church was formerly connected with Sherborne Priory, Hants. The estate belonged to the Congreves down to 1850. The register dates from 1558. On Aldermaston Common there are some British entrenchments. 1½m. S., on the Hampshire border, and partly in that county, is the Roman amphitheatre of Silchester, the ancient *Calleva*, which is now being excavated by the Society of Antiquaries.

(*h*) *Inkpen* (originally Ingpen), as its name denotes, is situated on the hills. Its church, dedicated to St. Michael, is a small ancient structure of flint and stone. It contains the effigy of a Crusader, and the register dates from 1570. Kirby House, the property of the Butler family, is now unoccupied.

Inkpen Beacon is the highest point of the chalk in the S. of England, being 1,011 feet high.

2. The Loddon.

Pope's "Lodona,"

> "The Loddon slow, with verdant alders crown'd,"

is composed of various branches, one of which rises beyond Basingstoke in Hants, and another in the thickets of Windsor Forest. The main stream enters Berks just before reaching the picturesque villages of (*a*) *Swallowfield* and (*b*) *Arborfield*, and passing by *Shinfield*, (*c*) *Bearwood*, (*d*) *Hurst*, and (*e*) *Twyford*, proceeds on its tortuous course to join the Thames near Wargrave.

"Contributing her store,
As still we see the much runs ever to the more."
DRAYTON.

Near Swallowfield it receives the recently united waters of the Whitewater and Blackwater.

The Bray drainage, constructed in the latter part of the late or early in the present century, commences at Brick Bridge in the parish of Shottesbroke, flows across the northern extremity of White Waltham parish into Bray, then, turning northwards, joins the course of Shaffieldmoor Brook, which has been widened and deepened, and turning again eastward through Bray Wick, falls into the Thames a little below Monkey Island. The waters diverted by this cut come from Ascot and Winkfield, through Warfield and Binfield, and used formerly to flow westward through the parishes of Waltham St. Lawrence, Ruscombe, and Hurst (feeding the now dried-up Ruscombe Lake), into the Loddon above its junction with the Thames at Twyford.

(*a*) *Swallowfield*, which formerly was an isolated part of Wiltshire, is a quiet rural spot, the last residence of the charming authoress, Miss Mitford, who sleeps the sleep of the righteous in its beautiful churchyard, her grave being marked by a large cross of Aberdeen granite.

The church, dedicated to All Saints, was built in the 13th century by John le Despencer, Baron of Swallowfield, and "restored" in 1871 by Sir Charles Russell, Bart. It consists of chancel, nave, tower and wooden belfry, and contains several monuments and brasses. The register dates from 1540.

Swallowfield Park (Sir George Russell, Bart., M.P.) was in ancient times royal property. Its history has been written by Lady Russell, and published in the Berks Archæological Journal. The Earl of Warwick held the manor in the time of Henry III. From the Despencers and the De la Beches it passed to the third son of Henry IV., who bequeathed the property to Henry VI. Two of the queens of Henry VIII. held it, and then it passed to the Backhouse family, and thence to the Earl of Clarendon. It was sold in 1719 to the celebrated Governor Pitt; it afterwards passed through various families to the ancestors of the present owner. The mansion was built in 1678 by Henry, second Earl of Clarendon, "Here the celebrated Lord Chancellor Clarendon resided with his son upon his retirement from public life, and here he is said to have

written, if not the whole, the greater part of the 'History of the Rebellion.'"—*Kelly*.

Farley Hill Court (Mrs. Brooks), Farley Hill Castle (Mrs. Martin Atkins), Farley Hall (Col. Gray), and Loddon Court (Mrs. Roupell), are seats in this parish.

(*b*) *Arborfield*, 5m. S.E. from Reading, has a modern church, dedicated to St. Bartholomew, built principally at the cost of the late Sir William Brown, Bart., of Liverpool.

Arborfield Hall (Mrs. Hargreaves) is pleasantly situated on the banks of the Loddon, with park and grounds. The ruins of the old parish church stand in the park. It was built in 1256, and contained some interesting mural paintings. Two aisles which have been restored contain memorials of the Standen and Conroy families. The grounds of Arborfield Grange (Captain Rickman, R.N.) contain a miniature lake.

Adjoining Arborfield is the ancient village of *Barkham*, mentioned in Domesday. The old church was pulled down about 30 years ago; the present building contains a recumbent figure carved in wood of a lady of the 13th century, and a brass memorial of the Leveson-Gowers, late lords of the manor. There is some good church plate, a chalice of 1561; and the registers date from 1538. The manor-house is occupied by General Rickman. There are two moated houses in the parish.

(*c*) *Bearwood* is the seat of John Walter, Esq., the principal proprietor of the *Times*. The park is very beautiful, and the house, newly built in the Italian style, contains a fine collection of pictures. The property was bought by the late Mr. Walter, who was some time M.P. for the county.

(*d*) *Hurst* is an extensive parish, part of which has been formed into the ecclesiastical district of Bearwood, and part into Twyford. The church of St. Nicholas is an ancient edifice, but much of it has been rebuilt. It was enlarged and "restored" in 1876. The chancel is separated from the nave by a carved oak screen, "surmounted by the royal arms and the Prince of Wales's plume richly gilt." There is an elaborate seventeenth-century monument to Lady Margaret Saville, widow of Sir Henry Saville, founder of the Savillian professorship at Oxford. There are a few other monuments, and also two brasses of the 16th and 17th centuries. Abp. Laud often preached here.

Billingbear, in the parish of Waltham St. Lawrence, though built in the reign of George I., has something of the character of an Elizabethan mansion. It was granted, with other manors and estates in Wargrave, by Edward VI. to Sir Edward Neville, a scion of the house of Abergavenny, from whom it has descended to the present Lord Braybrooke. But owing to his lordship owning another and still finer seat in Essex, Audley End, it has generally been let. It stands in a park of about 1,000 acres, and is now inhabited by C. T. Crews, Esq.

(*c*) *Twyford* stands, as its name denotes, on the two fordable channels of the Loddon. It owes its present prosperity to its railway feeders. It was originally a hamlet of Hurst, but was formed into a separate ecclesiastical parish in 1876. It has a pretty church, near the railway station, erected in 1845. About the year 1720, a school, with chapel attached, was founded here by Mr. Edward Polehampton, who endowed it for the free education and clothing of ten poor boys of the village. Lady Frances Winchcomb also founded almshouses for six poor persons.

3. The Ock.

The *Ock* rises near *Uffington*, a settlement of the Uffingas, and flows by way of (*a*) *Stanford* and (*b*) *Lyford*, for 20m., to join the Thames. In its sinuous course it receives numerous little tributaries which drain the district of the Vale of the White Horse and the high ground about, and its banks exhibit much picturesque scenery. It is well known to anglers for its pike.

(*a*) *Stanford*, or Stanford-in-the-Vale, lies about 2m. from Challow Station, and about 3m. E. from Uffington Junction on the G.W.R. The church, dedicated to St. Denis, dates from the 13th century, and the architecture is a mixture of E.E. and middle pointed. It was extensively repaired in 1851. The register dates from 1558. The church contains some interesting memorials, an early brass to Roger Campdene, priest, 1379, and projecting from the wall on the S. side is a stone chest of tabernacle work, the former use of which is doubtful; it was probably a reliquary. Dr. Wordsworth, Bishop of Lincoln, was vicar here.

In the Stanford stone-pits, in the neighbourhood, a large number of fossils have been dug up. Many Roman coins have been found here.

(*b*) *Lyford*, 3m. N. from Wantage Road Station on the G.W.R., has a small but interesting church of the E.E. period of architecture, consisting of nave and chancel. In the village are twenty almshouses, founded in 1611 by Oliver Ashcombe, a native of Lyford.

4. The Auburn.

The Auburn—or Enborne, as it was formerly called—rises near Inkpen, and runs eastward, almost parallel with the Kennet, and for some distance forms the boundary between this county and Hampshire. Its course is about 17m. It skirts the grounds of Sandleford Priory (see p. 69), and passing by Crookham and Brampton, joins the Kennet near Ufton Nervet.

5. The Lambourne.

This river has its course in the chalk hills above the town of Lambourne (*a*), and runs in a S.E. direction, past Eastbury (*b*), Shefford (*c*), Welford (*d*), and Boxford (*e*), and within sight of Donnington Castle (*f*).

The river rises near the town of Lambourne, and joins the Kennet near Newbury. The pastoral character of this quiet countryside is sufficiently indicated by the names Shefford, or Sheep-ford, and Lambesbourne.

A very curious property is said to be noticed in this river, namely, that it flows fuller in the summer than in the winter. "This extraordinary phenomenon is accounted for," says the "New and Complete British Traveller," "by supposing that there is in the hill from which the water issues, a large cavity with a duct in form of a syphon or crane, such as is used to decant wine and other liquors."

The above-mentioned circumstance, however, says the author of the "Beauties of England and Wales," seems to have no foundation in truth. "The fact is, the current of the river is nearly the same at all times; and the reason why the stream does not materially increase in winter seems to rise from the paucity of neighbouring eminences, by which alone the current would be swelled from the torrents poured into its bosom." During a remarkable drought in the summer of 1803 its source was entirely dried up for several months.

Ashmole says that this river is "ever high in summer, but so low in the winter that it is entirely lost. It leaves this place (Lambourne) about Michaelmas, and sometimes

before, but the sooner it goes the country people observe that the cheaper is corn that season. It is thus described by the translator of Dubarta's 'Weeks,' Mr. Joseph Sylvester, who lived here many years:

"'And little Lambesbourn, though thou match not Lers,
Nor hadst the honour of Dubarta's verse,
If mine have any, thou must needs partake,
Both for thine own and for thine owner's sake.
All summer long (while all thy sisters shrink),
Then of thy waters thousands daily drink,
Beside the water which in haste doth run
To wash the feet of Chaucer's Donnington.
But while the rest are full unto the top,
All winter long thou dost not show a drop,
Nor send a doit of needless subsidy
To cram the Kennet's wantless treasury.
Before her store be spent, and springs be staid,
Then thou alone, thou lend'st a liberal aid,
Teaching thy wealthy neighbours (mine of late)
How, when, and where, to right participate
Their streams of comfort to the poor that pine.'"

(*a*) *Lambourne*, 8m. N.N.W. from Hungerford. Here are the steps and shaft of an ancient market-cross. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, is cruciform, chiefly of 13th-century date, but comprises examples of the Nor., E.E., and Perp. styles of architecture. The nave has late Nor. arches, massive pillars, and clerestory, and was built in 1085. This church is one of the most interesting in Berkshire. It contains some fine monuments and brasses of interest, and also some stained-glass windows. "In the S. transept or chapel is a marble monument with a recumbent figure in armour, representing John Estbury, or Isbury; in the N. transept is a fine alabaster tomb to the memory of Thomas Essex, ambassador to Spain, and Margaret his wife, dated 1558; the stained windows are memorials inserted by H. Hippisley, Esq., of Lambourne Place. Here are also some fine ornamental brasses to the Estbury and Garrard families. . . . In 1876 a handsome east window, representing the 'Last Judgment,' was added, in memory of Bishop Milman, of Calcutta, formerly Vicar of Lambourne; there is also a stained window in the chancel to the Rev. John Murray, the late vicar."—*Kelly*.

On the N. side of the church are almshouses for ten poor

men founded by John Estbury in 1502, and rebuilt by Henry Hippisley, Esq., in 1852. The buildings form a small quadrangle, and are of Elizabethan architecture. Each inmate has 10s. weekly. They were formerly required to repair every morning and evening to prayers around the tomb of the founder, but they now attend the daily service of Lambourne parish church.

At Ashdown, near Lambourne, large coursing meetings are held every February and October; and many race-horses are trained here.

At Bockhampton, about 2m. distant, some land was held in olden days on the tenure of keeping a kennel for the king's hounds, and also six damsels (meretrices) for the king. It is doubtful whether these were laundresses, or women of a baser kind.

(*b*) *Eastbury* is a separate ecclesiastical parish formed in 1867 out of Lambourne. The Church of St. James, erected when Bishop Milman of Calcutta was Vicar of Lambourne, is a small plain structure of stone and flint, with chancel, nave, porch, and a bell turret.

(*c*) *Great Shefford* (Sheep-ford) has a church, E.E., consisting of chancel, nave and circular tower. It was "restored" in 1871. The font is Nor., and richly sculptured. Charles I. lodged in this village on the 19th of November, 1644. *Little Shefford* is in a green valley, embowered among ancient trees. There are remains here of an ancient moated manor-house, and the little old gray church preserves some beautiful and interesting memorials of the Fettiplace family. It was the private chapel of that family, and was restored in 1887. The church possesses a Nor. font, and a consecration cross; a helmet of a knight which used to hang in the chancel is preserved in the rectory.

(*d*) *Welford* has a fine church, dedicated to St. Gregory, lately "restored," with a remarkably picturesque circular tower and spire. Many portions are Norman; the additions are E.E., Dec., and Perp. In the churchyard stands an ancient cross; Welford is an ancient village, and possesses many attractions to the historian and archæologist. Roman remains have been found here: it appears in several Saxon charters, and appears in Domesday as "Waliford."

Wickham, about 1½m. distant from Welford, has a handsome church dedicated to St. Swithin, of which the tower is ancient (early Norman with some Saxon work); but the

rest of the edifice was rebuilt in 1846. It contains some rich specimens of architectural carving. The handsome font-cover, from the Great Exhibition of 1862, was presented to the church by Col. Nicholson.

(*e*) *Boxford* is worth notice for the quiet beauty of its position. The church, dedicated to St. John, is ancient, probably 14th century; it was partly rebuilt in 1841. The register dates from 1558.

At the northern end of the parish is Hangmanstone Lane, so called from the following legend: "A man having stolen a sheep, was carrying it with its hind-legs round his neck, and sat down to rest on the large boundary stone; the sheep struggled and drew him backwards, and he was found in the morning strangled by the hind-legs of the sheep."—*Kelly.* This road is conjectured to have been the Roman road from Spinæ to Wantage.

At Wyfield Farm, in this parish, is Borough Hill Camp. The rampart, though nearly effaced, can still be traced; it measures from N. to S. 210 feet, and from E. to W. 180 feet. A large number of Roman coins and fragments of pottery have been found here.

(*f*) *Donnington Castle:* its tower and gateway, their sides literally hidden by the all-protecting ivy, crown a hill to the left of the Oxford road, about 4m. N. of Newbury.

"This was formerly a place of much importance; and, by commanding the western road, gave to its possessors a considerable degree of authority. When it was originally built is uncertain; but from a manuscript preserved in the Cottonian Library, it appears that it belonged to Walter Abberbury, who paid one hundred shillings for it to the king. Towards the latter end of the reign of Richard II., Sir Richard Abberbury obtained a license to rebuild it, and from him it descended to his son Richard, of whom it was purchased by Geoffrey Chaucer, the parent of English poetry."—*Beauties of England and Wales.*

"When in its glory, Donnington Castle was a handsome, well-fortified place, and had underneath it a hospital for several poor. This, in process of time, became the seat of Sir Geoffrey Chaucer, the prince of English poetry, who composed many of his celebrated pieces under an oak in this park."—*Ashmole.*

Ashmole seems to have been in error concerning the connection of the father of English poetry with Donnington, the fact being that Thomas Chaucer, butler to Richard II.,

the supposed son of Geoffrey, purchased the estate from Richard de Abberbury for 1,000 marks of silver. Few estates have passed through the hands of so many owners. On the attainder of Edmund de la Pole, the castle became the property of the crown.

John Evelyn, in his "Discourse on Forest Trees," gives an account of three fine oaks in this park, said to have been planted by Chaucer's own hands.

The noise of battle raged around Donnington Castle in the stirring times of the Civil War. Garrisoned by Colonel Boys for the king, the stout old cavalier repulsed several fierce attacks of the Roundhead leaders, from 1644 to 1646, when, resistance ceasing to be useful, he was ordered to deliver up the castle. Nothing is left of the castle except the entrance tower, and a few fragments of walls and foundations. The battered walls bear evident traces of the mischief wrought upon them by the cannon of the Roundheads during the Civil War; and several cannon-balls are preserved here, which have been found embedded in the masonry, or picked up in the ground hard by.

Half-way up the hill moulder the remains of Donnington Priory, founded in 1392 by Sir Richard de Abberbury, who also built a hospital for the poor. The present priory was built long after the destruction of the ancient house. Here resided the father of the Author of "Tom Brown's School-days."

Canals.—The *Wilts and Berks Canal* commences in the river Thames, just below Abingdon, and is carried, nearly in a line with a tributary of the Ock, into the Vale of the White Horse, and thence above Childrey and Woolstone, and past Shrivenham, into Wiltshire.

The *Kennet and Avon Canal* begins at Newbury, forming a continuation of the Kennet Navigation, and passes up the Vale of Kennet, by Hungerford, into Wiltshire.

The *Kennet Navigation* begins at Newbury, and renders the river navigable, following to a great extent the original channel, as far as its junction with the Thames below Reading.

The importance of canals, however, as a means of inland communication and traffic, has here, as elsewhere, been to a very great extent destroyed by the general introduction of railways.

RAILWAYS.

The *Great Western Railway* enters the county at Maidenhead, and strikes across it to Reading. Thence, it keeps near the boundary as far as Basildon, near Pangbourne; after a detour of about 3m. in Oxfordshire in a north-westerly direction, it re-enters Berkshire at Moulsford Station, in the parish of Cholsey* (whence a branch line runs to Wallingford); thence it goes direct to Didcot, where a branch line connects it with Oxford; it afterwards keeps to the westward until it enters Wiltshire, just beyond Shrivenham.

Offshoots of the Great Western Railway.

1. Maidenhead to Marlow and High Wycombe, Bucks.
2. Twyford to Henley.
3. Reading to Mortimer (Basingstoke Branch).
4. Reading, *viâ* Newbury, to Hungerford.
5. Didcot, *viâ* Abingdon, to Oxford.
6. Uffington to Faringdon.
7. Didcot to Newbury.

The *London and South-Western Railway* enters Berkshire at Sunningdale, and proceeds by way of Ascot and Bracknell to Wokingham, and thence to Reading.

The *South-Eastern Railway* from Redhill enters Berkshire at Blackwater, and proceeds *viâ* Wokingham to Reading.

Route of the Great Western Railway.

Main Points: Maidenhead—Twyford—Reading—Pangbourne—Wallingford—Didcot—Steventon—Wantage Road—Uffington—Shrivenham.

* A station is being constructed at Cholsey, whence a branch-line will run to Wallingford.

Of Maidenhead we have already spoken (see p. 57). Quitting the rich and beautiful Valley of the Thames, the railway strikes across an open, windy country, just above the villages of White Waltham, Shottesbrooke, Lawrence Waltham, and Ruscombe.

At *White Waltham*—also called Abbot's Waltham—stood till lately the ugliest church in the county. It was a nondescript mixture of every style and of no style; but it was pulled down and rebuilt in 1868. It now is mainly Dec., with nave, aisles, transept, and tower, and stands prettily on the side of a hill. Adjoining it are some farm buildings remarkable for their bright colouring, Mr. J. Bower was vicar here 67 years, and d. 1644. Preaching before Elizabeth, he addressed her as "my *royal* Queen," changing soon afterwards to "my *noble* Queen." Whereupon Elizabeth, in allusion to the comparative value of royals and nobles, exclaimed, "What, am I ten groats worse than I was?" The pun so overpowered Mr. Bower, that he never preached again, but read a homily. Prince Arthur, son of Henry VII., resided here for some time. White Waltham was the birthplace of the indefatigable antiquary and topographer, Thomas Hearne, sometime Camden Professor of History at Oxford. It was through the aid of a member of the Cherry family, of Shottesbrooke, that he was sent to Oxford; b. 1680, d. 1735.

On the confines of White Waltham and Lawrence Waltham was formerly a moated mansion, reported by Hearne as one of the country houses of Prince Arthur, the elder brother of Henry VIII.

Shottesbrooke and White Waltham lie very close together in a pleasant and shady "combe"; and their retired situation doubtless helped to save their churches from the hands of the Reformers and Puritans. Shottesbrooke Church is a small cruciform structure of the Dec. period, built in 1336; its windows are filled with flowing tracery, and still retain some of the old painted glass. In its N. transept are two beautiful mural tombs, for the founder and his wife. The figures which lay on them are gone, and the niche which once held the figure of a saint is empty. The tower is surmounted by a tall and elegant stone spire. This church has few equals in beauty and symmetrical proportion.

The manor-house, *temp.* William III., was the resort of

many famous nonjurors — Bishop Ken, Robert Nelson, Francis Cherry, Dr. Grade, and Henry Dodwell.

Here are the remains of a chantry dedicated in the reign of Edward III. to St. John the Baptist; it lasted till the Dissolution.

S.W. of Shottesbrooke is Lawrence Waltham, an ancient parish, and still a place of importance; here there was a Roman camp; the remains of it are scanty, but many Roman coins have been dug up there. The church contains some memorials of the Nevill family; it is an old structure, and was restored in 1847 and 1888.

In a quaint old house at *Ruscombe* (anciently Rothescamp), destroyed some half-century ago, died William Penn, the founder of Pennsylvania. He was buried in the Quakers' meeting-house at Chalfont St. Giles, Bucks. The village is quiet and romantic. "It lies in a valley, and the gentle rising hills afar off add to the placid beauty of the scene." The church was built in the 12th century, but has been several times restored. It contains some monuments of the Braybrooke family. The register dates from 1590, and contains the record of the burial of some soldiers killed in the Civil Wars.

From Twyford, the rail crosses the Thames Valley to Reading, gradually drawing nearer to the river-bank. Hence it follows the course of the Thames to Pangbourne, already described (see above, p. 40); crosses the river near Basildon; curves along the Oxfordshire bank, until it re-crosses the Thames a little below Wallingford; and by way of Cholsey and the Moretons proceeds to Didcot.

At Moulsford a branch line runs N., about 3½m., through a level country to

Wallingford, of which we have already given an account (see p. 35).

At *Didcot*, the junction of the Oxford and Newbury branches with the main line of the G.W.R., there is a small Dec. and Perp. church, bosomed among noble yews, possessing several points of architectural interest. At the W. end there is an effigy of a mitred abbot of the 13th century, supposed to be the first Abbot of Abingdon. A picturesque stone cross adorns the churchyard.

East Hendred, 2m. to the S. from Steventon Station, is a village of a primitive type, the chief part of the land having been in the hands of the Eyston family for over five centuries. The Eystons, then of Isleworth, acquired

this estate in 1381 by marriage with the heiress of John Stow. Their pedigree is to be seen in full in Ashmole's "Berkshire." The place, which lies partly in Wantage and partly in Reading Hundred, was a large town till the Reformation, and it contains no less than five manors.

Hendred House contains a private Roman Catholic Chapel of the 14th century, which has never been used for Protestant worship; also the walking-staff of Bishop Fisher, and the drinking-cup of Sir Thomas More. In the village is an old religious house and chapel of the 15th century, dedicated to Jesus of Bethlehem. It is said to have been erected by the monks of Sheen, in Surrey, to whom large lands in East Hendred were given by Henry VI. It was used in the last century as a pigeon-house and a bakery and wash-house. Other parts of Hendred belonged to the great Abbey of Reading.

A small stream rising here passes through West Hendred, Steventon, and Milton, and joins the Thames at Sutton Courtney, near Abingdon.

In the valley lies *Steventon*, a quaint old drowsy village, often flooded in winter. It has a railway station, which for a long time was the nearest station to Oxford. Soon afterwards we cross the Wilts and Berks Canal, and arrive at *Wantage Road*, 2½ m. N. of WANTAGE, or *Wanting* (pop. 3669). It was called by the Saxons Wanating, from the name of the chieftain who first settled here, and is described by Ashmole as "the capital of the Hundred of Wanting." Its charter for a market dates from about 920. Roman coins have been found here, and also a stone pavement. Wantage is famous to all time as the birthplace of Alfred the Great. It was the property of the Wessex kings, who often resided here in the royal palace situated in the *High Garden*, where Alfred was born. It was a very important place in Saxon times; in 990 Ethelred II. held a council here to revise the Saxon laws. Under the Normans its prosperity and importance declined, but it remained in the hands of the Kings of England until the reign of Richard I. who gave it to the Earl of Albemarle, whence it passed to Hugh Bigod, Fitzwarine, the Bouchiers, Earls of Bath, and then to the Wreys, who sold it to the D'Oylys. To the memory of the famous Alfred a statue has been set up in the market-place. It is of Sicilian marble, and was executed, at a cost of 2000 guineas, by Count Gleichen. It was presented to the town by Lord Wantage, of Lockinge Park. Bishop

Butler, author of the "Analogy," was also b. here in 1692. The church, restored in 1881, is a large cruciform building, Nor. and Perp., with E.E. nave, containing some good memorials. Many of the monumental inscriptions are recorded by Ashmole. The register dates from 1537.

The Corn Exchange, built in 1865, is used for public meetings, balls, concerts, etc. The Town Hall is situated in the market-place. The chief inns are the *Bear* and the *Alfred's Head*.

High Garden (originally a Roman work) covers the supposed site of the Saxon palace where King Alfred was b. An orchard called Court Close still preserves the association of the spot with its former greatness. A basin of pure and limpid water, a little to the W. of the town, is called *King Alfred's Well*. The ancient Grammar School of Wantage, called King Alfred's School, was revived by public subscription in commemoration of the 1000th anniversary of the birth of Alfred the Great in 1849. The buildings, in the E.E. style, form three sides of a quadrangle. A Norman doorway at the entrance of the old school was brought here from the churchyard, where the school erected by Queen Elizabeth formerly stood. It contains about 40 scholars, of whom 20 are boarders. It is said that far on in the ninth century Alfred the Great found that there was not a single ecclesiastic in his dominions S. of the Thames who could construe the Latin prayers of his own breviary; but this is probably an exaggeration.

"Not far from this place, at *Childrey*, near Wantage, runs the famous Roman way called Ickenyld Street, so admirably traced out by the late Roger Gale, Esq., to Streatley."—*Ashmole.*

Childrey, the ancient abode of the Fettiplace family, possessed a highly interesting church. In 1526 a chantry was founded in honour of the Holy Trinity and the Virgin St. Kateryn; also an earlier chantry of the 14th century existed here. There are several piscinas, carved sedilia, hagioscope, sanctus bell, curious font, strange corbels, old glass, &c. The church and manor-house are full of interest to all students of archæology and architecture.

Ardington, 3½m. S.E. from Wantage Road Station, has a church in the E.E. style dedicated to the Holy Trinity, restored by Lord Wantage in 1887. Among the epitaphs is one, without date, to Edward Clarke, Esq., and his wife Susanna, daughter of Sir Thomas Temple, Bart.:

"In this shrine together lye
Wisdom match'd with sanctitye:
He a Clarke; she without boast
A Temple for the Holy Ghost."
ASHMOLE'S "Berks."

The founder of the National Gallery, Robert Vernon, Esq., resided at Ardington House.

Denchworth, 2½m. N.E., will well repay a visit. The church, dedicated to St. James, is an ancient edifice of various styles of architecture. It has a good Nor. doorway, E.E. tower and Perp. chancel; some good brasses, one of which is a palimpsest, and a hagioscope. In a room over the church porch was a library belonging to the vicar as such. This was transferred from the church to the vicarage on the restoration of the former by Mr. Street in 1852. In it was a "Caxton," now in the Bodleian Library at Oxford, and a copy of Cranmer's Bible.

The romantic scenery of the Berkshire chalk hills, and their quaint villages, have been admirably described by a popular author: "They are queer, straggling, old-fashioned places, the houses being dropped down without the least regularity, in nooks and out-of-the-way corners, by the sides of shadowy lanes and footpaths, each with its patch of garden. They are built chiefly of good gray stone, and thatched; though within the last few years red brick cottages have multiplied, for the vale is beginning to manufacture largely both bricks and tiles. There are lots of waste ground by the side of the road in every village, amounting often to village greens, where feed the pigs and ganders of the people; and these roads are old-fashioned, homely roads, very dirty and badly made, and hardly endurable in winter, but still pleasant jogtrot roads, running through the great pasture lands, dotted here and there with little clumps of thorns, where the sleek kine are feeding, with no fence on either side of them, and a gate at the end of the field, which makes you get out of your gig (if you keep one), and gives you a chance of looking about you at every quarter of a mile."—*Tom Brown's School Days.*

At *Letcombe Regis*, the church, dedicated to St. Andrew, is late Nor., with Perp. tower. The chief objects of interest in this parish are the castle, an ancient British encampment to the S. of the village, circular in shape, formerly called Sugbury, and the moat which surrounds a

modern residence near the village supposed to occupy the site of a royal hunting-box, *temp.* King John.

The church of *Letcombe Basset*, dedicated to St. Michael, is Norman, originally built about 1100; it was enlarged in the thirteenth century, and recently further enlarged and repaired. The font is Norman. At the vicarage Dean Swift lived in retirement, at the beginning of June, 1714, and wrote his "Free Thoughts on the State of Public Affairs."

At *Sparsholt*, 3m. N. from Challow Station, the church, dedicated to the Holy Cross, and rebuilt in 1867, contains fragments of Norman work, particularly a doorway on the N. side. It is one of the most ancient churches in the county, having been founded in 963, rebuilt in 1187, and enlarged in 1327. One of the bells was cast in pre-Reformation times. There are several ancient monuments.

Uffington (late Faringdon Road) Station is 5m. from *Faringdon* (see p. 25). From this station the traveller may visit the Vale of the White Horse, and explore its interesting scenery.

Kingston Lisle, 2½m. S.E., was long the seat of the De Lisles. It lies in a valley, sheltered by many noble trees. The church is a small Norman edifice, consisting of chancel, nave, and tower. The register dates from the year 1559. Half a mile distant, in a hollow of the downs, and beside an old oak-tree, is the famous *Blowing Stone*—a mass of red sandstone, about 3 feet high, pierced with holes on each side, through any of which, if a person blows, a dull moaning sound is produced, audible at a distance of 5 or 6 m. This rude trumpet of stone was used by the ancient Celtic tribes to call their scattered bands together when danger threatened them. There is a roadside inn close by, bearing the sign of *The Blowing Stone.*

Kingston House (James Taylor, Esq.) is a handsome mansion standing in a well-wooded park.

The church at *Uffington*—a settlement of the Uffingas—was founded by Fabricus, Abbot of Abingdon, in 1105. It is a large cruciform building, chiefly of the earliest Pointed architecture, with an octagonal central lantern tower. It is well worthy of a visit. Uffington is the home of Squire Brown in "Tom Brown's School Days," and also of the author himself in his early days.

Uffington, otherwise Offington (Offa's town), gives the second title of Viscount to the Earl of Craven, who is the

lord of the manor, and owner of most of the land in the parish.

Behind the village, and visible from the rail, is the figure of the *White Horse*, cut in the turf on the side of a hill which is almost the highest point in the chalk range. On the summit is a magnificent camp, known as *Uffington Castle*, 700 feet in diameter from E. to W., and 500 from N. to S. It is surrounded by a high inner vallum, with a slighter one on the outside. It has not been determined by antiquarians whether these earthworks are of Celtic, Roman, or Saxon origin. Some have attributed them to the Danes. Half a mile further N.W. is another camp, called *Hardwell Castle*, nearly square in form, and encircled also by a double vallum; its dimensions 140 feet by 180.

The Vale of the White Horse is the home of many popular songs and ballads, which have been handed down among the peasantry of this remote district, doubtless from Saxon times.

The "White Horse" is generally accepted as a memorial of the great battle of Æscendune, or the Ash-Down, when Ethelred and Alfred inflicted a total defeat on the Danes, and slew their king Bægsieg. The custom of scouring or clearing out the chalky figure of the horse was a famous Berkshire festival for many generations, but died out in 1780. It was revived, however, with great success, in 1858. A Berkshire ballad commemorates the old custom:

"The Owld White Horse wants zetten to rights,
And the squire hev promised good cheer,
Zo we'll gie un a scrape to kip un in zhape,
And a'll last for many a year.

"A was made a lang lang time ago,
Wi' a good dale o' labour and pains,
By King Alferd the Great when he spwiled their consate,
And caddled thay woshirds the Danes.

"The Bleawin Stwun in days gone by
Wur King Alferd's bugle harn,
And the tharnin tree you med plainly see,
As is called King Alferd's tharn.

"There'll be backsword play, and climmin the powl,
And a race for a pig and a cheese,
And us thinks as hisn's a dummell zowl,
As dwon't care for zich spwoorts as these."

"Right down below the White Horse is a curious deep and broad gully called 'the Manger,' into one side of which the hills fall with a series of the most lovely sweeping curves, known as 'the Giant's Stairs'; they are not a bit like stairs, but I never saw anything like them anywhere else, with their short green turf, and tender blue hills, and gossamer and thistle-down gleaming in the sun, and the sheep-paths running along their sides like ruled lines." —*Murray.*

The other side of the Manger is known as the Dragon's Hill, where St. George is said to have killed the dragon, whose blood ran down the side, where the grass has never grown since. The right name of the mound is probably Pendragon's Hill, from a chief slain in battle there.

"Passing along the Ridgeway to the W. for about a mile, we come to a little clump of young beech and firs, with a growth of thorn and privet underwood. In the middle of it is an old cromlech, a huge flat stone raised on seven or eight others, and led up to by a path, with large single stones set up on each side." This is Wayland Smith's Cave, which the genius of Scott has connected with imperishable memories.

"The thick deep wood in the hollow, about a mile off, surrounds Ashdown Park (the Countess of Craven), built by Webb, a pupil of Inigo Jones. Four broad alleys are cut through the wood from circumference to centre, and each leads to one face of the house. The mystery of the Downs hangs about house and wood, as they stand there alone, so unlike all around, with the green slopes, studded with great stones just about this part, stretching away on all sides."—*Murray.* These stones—the Sarsden Stones —are remains of a tertiary stratum of indurated Bagshot sand, and from their colour and a certain fanciful resemblance to sheep, are called the *Grey Wethers.*

At the foot of the hill crowned by Hardwell Castle nestles *Compton*—a moated manor-house, with peerless terraced gardens, and an avenue of yews known as the Cloister Walk.

Shrivenham Station is 71¼m. from London. The church is of the Jacobean period, the tower being Perp., and contains several monuments of interest. The adjacent almshouses were founded and endowed by Sir Henry Martin, the regicide.

Ashbury, 3m. S.E. from Shrivenham, has an interesting

church, dedicated to St. Mary. It is cruciform, and contains some good Norman work, but the main structure is E.E. The edifice was restored in 1872. Here is a brass, dated 1448, in memory of William Skelton, formerly rector of this parish, one to John de Walden, 1360, and another to Thomas de Bushbury, 1409.

At Ashdown Park, in this parish, "is a camp of an oblong figure, about 100 paces in diameter, and the works single, which is a proof of its Danish origin. It is now almost destroyed by digging for the Sarsden stones to build a house for the proprietor, Lord Craven."—*Ashmole*, 1719.

Ashdown was the *Æscendune* of the Saxon chroniclers. "Wise suggests that the Danes held Uffington Castle; that Ethelred was in Hardwell Camp, and Alfred in Alfred's Camp. A mile and a half to the eastward, in which direction the battle must have rolled, as the Saxons slowly gained the day, is a place called the Seven Barrows, where are seven circular burial mounds, and several other large irregularly-shaped mounds, full of bones; the light soil which covers the chalk is actually black around them. The site agrees in all points with the description in the chroniclers; it is the proper distance from Reading; the name is the one used by the chroniclers—'Ashdown,' 'Mons Fraxini,' 'Æscendun'; it is likely that Ethelred would have fought somewhere hereabouts, to protect Wantage, a royal burgh, and his birthplace, which would have been otherwise at the mercy of the enemy; and lastly, there is carved the White Horse, which has been from time immemorial held to be a monument of the great victory of Ashdown."—*The Scouring of the White Horse.* The famous battle thus commemorated was fought in 871.

Beckett House (Viscount Barrington) is a goodly Elizabethan mansion, built in 1831-4, containing some good pictures and valuable relics. The grounds are enlivened by a large sheet of artificial water, which is overhung at one corner by a fantastic summerhouse of stone, built by Inigo Jones, and reputed to be the oldest in England.

Bourton, ¾m. W. from Shrivenham Station, is an ecclesiastical parish, formed, in 1867, out of the parish of Shrivenham. The church, dedicated to St. James, was built by subscription. An old cross stands in the centre of the village. "Great quantities of fossils of various kinds are frequently dug up in this village."—*Kelly.*

One mile beyond Shrivenham the rly. enters Wiltshire.

Offshoots of the Great Western Railway.

1. *Maidenhead to Marlow* (*High Wycombe and Thame*).

This branch line has but a short course in Berkshire, for just beyond Cookham it crosses the Thames = 4½m.

2. *Twyford to Henley.*

This branch, shortly after leaving the main line, crosses the Thames, and skirts the Oxfordshire bank of the river to Henley.

3. *Reading to Mortimer* (*Basingstoke Branch*) = 8½m.

About 2m. beyond Reading the line strikes southward across the country to the village of Stratfield Mortimer, near Silchester, and shortly afterwards enters Hampshire.

4. *Reading, viâ Newbury, to Hungerford* = 25½m.

On leaving Reading the line turns to the S.W., leaving on R. the village of *Tilehurst*, where Lloyd, Bishop of Worcester, was born. The church, dedicated to St. Michael, "has an alabaster reredos and carved oak stalls, and stained windows; it was almost entirely rebuilt in 1856."—*Kelly.* It contains a fine marble tomb of Peter Vanlore, a merchant of Utrecht, who became very wealthy. and owned Wallingford Castle. His epitaph runs as follows :

> "When thou hast read the name, 'Here lies Vanlore,'
> Thou need'st no story to inform thee more."

Calcot House (J. H. Blagrave, Esq.) "is a large square brick house with wings, backed by splendid timber, and looking out due S. over the pleasantest of parks full of dappled fallow deer."

Theale was separated ecclesiastically from Tilehurst in 1832. The church, dedicated to the Holy Trinity, was built in 1832, and contains an old chantry removed from Magdalen College, Oxford. Eleven miles N.W. is *Englefield.* where, in the park or chase, Ethelwulf, Alderman of Berks, fought with the Danes in 871, just before the battle of Æscendun. In its quiet little church, dedicated to St. Mark, and almost entirely rebuilt in 1857, lies the gallant Marquis of Winchester, whose tomb is inscribed with Dryden's lines and an epitaph which records how he was

"a man of exemplary piety towards God, and of inviolable fidelity towards his sovereign, in whose cause he fortified his house at Basing and defended it against the rebels to the last extremity." In the Englefield Chapel there are several monuments of that family.

Englefield House (R. Benyon, Esq.) is situated on rising ground overlooking the Valley of the Kennet. In 1564 the mansion became the property of Sir Francis Walsingham, Secretary to Queen Elizabeth, who paid a visit to the house. A portrait of her Majesty, presented by herself in commemoration of the visit, is preserved in the library. The estate for many years belonged to the Paulet family. The famous antiquary, Ashmole, resided in the village in 1647.

The next station is *Aldermaston*, followed by *Woolhampton*. At Aldermaston was a fine Elizabethan house, formerly the seat of the Congreves; but it was burnt down about 1850, and rebuilt by Mr. H. Burr, who had lately purchased the estate. Here was "a fair manor-house," which, according to Ashmole, was first given by King Henry I. to Robert Achard, from whose posterity by the Delameres it descended to the late owners, the Forsters, a very ancient and gentle family." It was sold by the last of that race to Lord Stawell. The windows in Aldermaston Park were filled with the alliances of the Forster family. To the E., on a finely wooded ascent, stands *Ufton Court*, once the residence of the beautiful Lady Arabella Fermor, the Belinda of Pope's "Rape of the Lock." It was built by the Perkinses in 1662. The house is now divided into several dwellings, and contains many secret rooms and passages, which were used as places of refuge in troubled times.

At *Beenham*, Stackhouse, the author of the "History of the Bible," was vicar, passing his life between alternate fits of mad intemperance and passionate regret. Lord Bolingbroke resided for a time at *Bucklebury*. Swift writes: "Mr. Secretary was a perfect country gentleman at Bucklebury: he smoked tobacco with one or two neighbours; he inquired after the wheat in such a field; he went to visit his hounds, and knew all their names; he and his lady saw me up to my chamber just in the country fashion. His house is just in the midst of 3,000*l.* a year he had by his lady, who is descended from Jack of Newbury, of whom books and ballads are written; and there is an old picture of him in the room."

Newbury has already been described (see p. 66). To the N.E., across the Lambourne, stands *Shaw House*, built in 1581 by Thomas Dolman, a wealthy cloth manufacturer. It is a stately Elizabethan mansion, built of rich red brick with stone dressings, and encircled with leafy shrubberies.

There is a station at *Kintbury*, anciently Kennet-bury. The church contains some ancient memorials. Four miles S., at the foot of the downs, lies *West Woodhay*. The manor house was built by Inigo Jones.

Beyond Hungerford the rly. enters Wiltshire.

5. *Didcot, viâ Abingdon, to Oxford.*

About 3m. N. of Didcot, the line crosses the Isis to Culham (in Oxfordshire), recrosses the river, throws off a short branch from Radley to *Abingdon* (see p. 30), and then follows the Berkshire boundary in the river valley, passes through *Radley*, with its small church and pleasant park, the property of Sir G. Bowyer, now used as a public school, and known as St. Peter's College. (It was founded by the late Professor Sewell.) Three miles farther, near Hinksey, it once more crosses the Isis and enters Oxford.

6. *Uffington to Faringdon.*

This line of railway, 3½m. in length, passes through the parish of *Baulking*, the village ½m. eastward of the station. The church, dedicated to St. Nicholas, is partly E.E., and partly of an earlier date.

7. *Didcot to Newbury.*

A rly. has been recently constructed from Didcot Junction to a junction with the S.W.R. at Whitchurch, *viâ* Newbury; and thence to Southampton, thus opening up a direct communication from that southern port to Birmingham, Manchester, Liverpool, and other great manufacturing centres in the N. of England. The northern section of the line, from Didcot to Newbury, was opened in April, 1882. It is 17m. in length, and skirting Ilsley and Compton, passes thence by Hampstead Norris and Hermitage.

London and South-Western Railway.

This line enters Berkshire at Sunningdale, skirts Windsor Forest, and at Ascot has a station near the

Ascot Racecourse. The course is on elevated ground, circular, and only 66 yards less than 2m. These fashionable races were founded by the Duke of Cumberland (uncle of George III.), and have always been attended by the *élite* of the English aristocracy. Ascot was a tract of poor sandy waste when the Duke of Cumberland, in the middle of the last century, took it in hand and cut it off from the great park, with the view of turning it into a racecourse. It is one of the finest in the kingdom; the races held here in July are almost always attended by royalty, and the "Ascot week" forms some of the red-letter days of the calendar of the aristocracy.

About a mile off is Swinley Lodge, where are the kennels of the royal buckhounds.

Bracknell, like most of the smaller Berkshire towns, consists of one long street, running along the Reading road. It has a graceful modern church, and is surrounded with much open, heathy country.

Easthampstead, a pretty rural village, lies to the L. The church contains the monuments of Sir William Turnbull, William III.'s Secretary of State, and the poet Fenton. Easthampstead Park, the seat of the Marquis of Downshire, is newly built in the modern style. It was long a royal residence and hunting-seat, and came to the Hill family from the Trumbulls. Here Queen Catherine, the first wife of Henry VIII., retired, and received the privy councillors of her husband, who vainly endeavoured to gain her consent to a divorce. James I. also lived here. About 1m. S. is an embankment with a double vallum, known as Cæsar's Camp.

Wokingham, which takes its name from the Wokings, the original Saxon settlers, mentioned in Beowulf, is the chief town actually in Windsor Forest; all business connected with the forest used to be carried on here. In the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle there is an interesting passage referring to a monastery here, which an Ealdorman, named Brorda, desired Offa, King of the Mercians, to make free. A Bull of Pope Constantine A.D. 708 refers to the same Saxon monastery. The town was included in the manor of Sonning in the Domesday Survey, and was placed, together with the rest of the forest, under the severe forest laws of the Norman kings. A charter was granted in ancient times, and renewed by Queen Elizabeth and James I. In 1885 the town was incorporated.

Wokingham was celebrated for its bull-baiting until seventy years ago, as one George Staverton left property for the purpose of buying a bull to be baited and killed in November, the meat to be given to the poor and the hide for shoes. The cruelties to which this "sport" gave rise were often censured in pamphlets and sermons, and at length it was decided to slay the bull in a more merciful manner and distribute the meat to the poor. The town was formerly famed for its manufacture of woollen cloth and of silk stockings. Wokingham has a famous inn, *The Rose*, whose whilom host had once a fair daughter celebrated by Gay, Pope, Swift, and Arbuthnot in a ballad, to which each contributed a verse :

> "And nothing would give satisfaction,
> But thinking of sweet Molly Mog."

The town, which owes much of its prosperity to the rly., has a picturesque E.E. church (dedicated to All Saints), containing the tomb of Godwin, Bishop of Bath and Wells, d. 1590. The church was restored in 1864. Ashmole records a monument in Wokingham Church, with the following inscription :

> "This worthy name of Squire Cotton
> Can never dye, although his bones be rotten."

The church of St. Paul, of Dec. architecture, was built by John Walter, Esq., and consecrated in 1864. The church of St. Sebastian was built by subscription in 1864. Archbishop Laud was a benefactor to Wokingham; he "gave to it 60*l.* a year, and every third year 70*l.*, for boys and maids."—*Ashmole*. In the centre of the town are the Town Hall, Market House, and Police Station; they occupy the site of the old Guild Hall, erected in the reign of James I., and were built at a cost of about 3500*l.*

At Luckley Green, near Wokingham, is a hospital, founded and endowed for sixteen pensioners, natives of Berks and Surrey, by Henry Lucas, Esq., in the reign of Charles I.

Broadmoor Criminal Lunatic Asylum occupies an elevated position near Wokingham. It was built from the designs of the late Sir J. Jebb, and is capable of accommodating 500 inmates.

Five miles S.E. is *Sandhurst*. The church of St. Michael

is of E.E. architecture, and was "restored" in 1864. The register dates from 1603.

The remains of a Roman camp are visible in this parish.

Sandhurst Military College, about 2m. from the church, stands in beautiful park-like grounds. It consists of a centre, with Doric portico, and two wings. In the library are portraits of George III. and his queen, and the previous governors. The students in the college are trained in strict military discipline, and generally number about 300. The building is surrounded by groves of fir, and enlivened with a gleaming lake.

Near the station which bears its name is *Wellington College*, built in 1856 as a memorial to the hero of Waterloo, and intended as a public school for the education and support of the orphan sons of British officers. Several large masters' houses have been built, and it now ranks with the famous public schools of England. It is governed by a council, under royal patronage.

From Wokingham to Reading the rly. follows closely in the track of the London road, crossing the Loddon at 34½m. from the Metropolis.

Offshoot of the London and South-Western Railway.

From Ascot to Bagshot, and thence to Aldershot and Farnham.

Branch of the South-Eastern Railway.

Wokingham to Blackwater.

The line crosses the wild and breezy tract once covered by the shades of Windsor Forest, passes Sandhurst, crosses the stream of the Blackwater, and enters Hampshire.

MAIN ROADS.

A. Windsor, *viâ* Reading, to Wallingford.
B. Staines, *viâ* Reading, to Hungerford.
C. Wallingford to Shrivenham.
D. Newbury to Abingdon.
E. Abingdon to Faringdon.
F. Hungerford, *viâ* Wantage, to Oxford.

A. Windsor, *viâ* Reading, to Wallingford.

Windsor.

Windsor is a borough town, on the R. bank of the Thames, 22m. from London. It contains few objects of interest, owing its celebrity to the adjacent castle, which has been for so many centuries the palatial residence of the English sovereigns. Few towns, however, have been so closely associated with the history of the English monarchy, and the leading events in the annals of our country. Round the Norman castle erected by the Conqueror the town began to grow, and from that time onward it has shared in the joys and sorrows of the royal house, witnessed the jousts and tournaments of ancient times, and all the splendid functions and ceremonies of the court. The terminus of the branch line of the South-Western Railway is in Datchet Road, near the base of the castle, and has a private entrance for the convenience of her Majesty. The railway branches from the main line at Wandsworth, and, after passing through Richmond and Staines, crosses the Thames just below Windsor. The branch line of the Great Western Railway, from Slough, enters Windsor by a handsome bow bridge, a short distance

higher up the river, and has its terminus in George Street. In March, 1882, a miscreant named Maclean fired at Her Majesty as she was leaving this railway station, but fortunately inflicted no injury.

The chief hotels are the *Castle* and the *White Hart*.

Windsor returned two members to Parliament with some intervals from 1302, but regularly since 1424 down to 1868, when the Reform Bill lopped off one. Among its most distinguished representatives have been Cornelius Holland, the regicide; Lord Masham, the husband of the "Mistress Masham" of Queen Anne's court; Admiral Keppel; Sir R. Hussey Vivian; Mr. E. G. Stanley, afterwards Earl of Derby and Prime Minister; Sir Christopher Wren; the Right Hon. H. Fox; Roger, Lord Castlemaine, Lord Mornington, afterwards Marquis Wellesley; and Sir William Grant, afterwards Master of the Rolls.

The Town Hall, erected in 1686 from the design of Sir Christopher Wren, is adorned with statues of Queen Anne and Prince George of Denmark, the latter dressed as a Roman hero. It contains a large room for the civic business, in which are some good portraits, including James I., Charles I., Charles II., James II., William III., Mary II., Anne, George III., Queen Charlotte, George IV., Queen Victoria, and the late Prince Consort.

The royal tapestry manufactory in Peascod Street, established about the year 1872 by Mr. Henry, under the auspices of Prince Leopold, Princess Helena, and Princess Louise, has had the effect of transplanting from France a new industry into Berkshire. It now employs nearly 100 hands, mostly French, and is rapidly producing an English style, equally distinct from the dainty, pale-tinted scroll-work of Beauvais, the firm bright Gobelins, and the comparatively flat Flemish tapestry.

In the town, between the Castle and the High Street, is a red-bricked house, built by order of Charles II. for Nell Gwynne and her son, the Duke of St. Albans.

The theatre, in Thames Street, was built in 1815, at a cost of nearly 6000*l*. The house is neatly fitted up and decorated, and will accommodate about 500 persons. Many actors of eminence have performed here.

Bachelor's Acre is an old public recreation-ground. Here is an obelisk, erected in 1810 in memory of George III. Here, also, are the Royal Free and Industrial Schools, having an annual endowment of nearly 250*l*.;

also a school for clothing and educating 20 girls, called the Ladies' Charity, founded in 1784. In the adjoining cemetery lies Charles Knight, the publisher and author, who was a native of Windsor. The lich-gate at its entrance was erected as a memorial of him.

Windsor is an important military station, and possesses extensive barracks for both infantry and cavalry. The former, situate in Sheet Street, contain accommodation for 1000 men; the Cavalry Barracks, in Spital Road, have accommodation for about the same number.

The parish church, dedicated to St. John the Baptist, is in the High Street. It is a spacious building, of poor modern architecture, and somewhat plain in its exterior; it comprises a nave and aisles, and an apsidal chancel, and has at the W. end a square embattled tower with pinnacles. Dr. Selwyn, Bishop of New Zealand, and afterwards of Lichfield, was formerly curate here. All the windows are filled with stained glass, and there is a peal of eight bells, two of which were presented by Lord Masham, who also recast the other six, as is shown by the following inscription which appears on each bell in text characters:

"I and my seven sisters here
Were given by the Cofferer.
And if you'd wish his name to know,
My elder sister will you show.

"Lord Masham, Cofferer to Queen Anne, gave these two bells, and new cast the other six in the year 1707."

The organ was presented to the parish by George III. in 1787, from St. George's Chapel, and the altar-piece by the Dean and Canons of Windsor; the altar railings were carved by Grinling Gibbons. The register dates from 1559. There are a few old tombs and monuments, but of no great interest.

All Saints, a chapel of ease to the parish church, is in Frances Road. It was built in 1863-64, and is a brick building in the E.E. style.

The church of Holy Trinity, in Trinity Place, was erected in 1842-43; it is a brick cruciform structure, in the E.E. style, and consists of nave, aisles, transepts, apse, chancel, and a tower and spire; several of the windows are of stained glass. Holy Trinity is an ecclesiastical parish, formed out of the parish of Clewer.

St. Saviour's, in Bier Lane, is a chapel of ease to Holy

Trinity. It is a brick building, and was erected in 1876.

A small inn in Peascod Street, called the *Duke's Head*, derives its name from having been the house of Villiers, second Duke of Buckingham.

There is a weekly market on Saturdays; and fairs are held on Easter Tuesday and the 5th of July.

Among the benefactors of this place was Archbishop Laud, who gave by will 50*l.* a year for marriage portions for poor maidens.

The Castle,

which has given the name of the "Royal County" to Berks, occupies a lofty and isolated eminence of chalk, which the Thames washes at its base, and away from which radiate long avenues of glorious trees. It is in truth a palace worthy of British kings, and sits proudly on its magnificent height, like an actual embodiment of the power and dignity of the British monarchy.

According to Camden, Windsor derives its name from the winding shores of the adjacent river, the Saxons calling it "Wyndleshora." Edward the Confessor bestowed it on the monks of St. Peter's, Westminster, who had a residence here; but the beauty of the situation commending it to the Conqueror, on account of its convenience for the pleasures of the chase, the pureness of the air, and its vicinity to woods and waters, he gave them in exchange a couple of Essex manors, and began building a castle on the pleasant site. In the fourth year of his reign he kept his court here; and from that time the castle has been the principal and favourite residence of British sovereigns.

To enumerate all the interesting associations of Windsor Castle would be to repeat a great portion of the history of England. Here Henry I. was married in 1122 to his second queen, Adeliza; here Henry II. mourned over the ingratitude of his children; from hence went John to Runnymede to sign the Great Charter of English freedom; here was b. the greatest of the Plantagenets, Edward III.—often called Edward of Windsor, and here he founded the illustrious Order of the Garter; here the same monarch built a stately new palace, under the direction of William of Wykeham; here he bewailed the death of Queen Philippa; here Henry VI. was b. to Katherine of Valois; here Charles I. indulged his fine taste for art, and Charles II. toyed with his

mistresses; here George III. lived the life of a quiet country gentleman; and here Victoria and Albert set a bright example to their subjects of every household virtue. The castle, as we now see it, owes much of its grandeur to George IV.'s architect, Wyatt, who was knighted for his services, and allowed to change his name to Wyattville; the western portion alone retains its ancient character unmodified. The different buildings erected by different sovereigns have thus been tabulated:

Henry I., Henry II., and Henry III.	The Garter and Cæsar Towers; the S. Ambulatory of the Dean's Cloister; the door behind the altar in St. George's Chapel; and the remains of the Domus Regis.
Edward III.	The Norman Gateway adjoining the Keep; some fragments of the Devil's and King John's Towers; and the Dean's Cloister.
Edward IV.	St. George's Chapel.
Henry VII.	The roof of St. George's Choir.
Henry VIII.	The Outer Gateway.
Elizabeth	The buildings from the Norman Gate to the entrance of the State Apartments.
Charles II.	His Statue.

The lower ward, the entrance to which from Castle Hill is formed by King Henry VIII.'s gateway, includes four towers, namely, Henry III.'s, Salisbury, Garter, and the Curfew Tower. The last-named tower was frequently used, especially during the reign of Edward III., as a prison, and many names of persons confined there are visible on its walls.

St. George's Chapel is in the lower ward of the castle; it was begun by Edward IV., the older chapels, founded by Henry I., and rebuilt by Edward III., having gone to decay. Resolved that this new building should equal any then extant, Edward appointed the Bishop of Salisbury to superintend its erection; and on so magnificent a scale was the work carried out that it was not completed until the reign of Henry VIII. In the interior the ornamentation is rich, elaborate, and abundant, the walls being covered with a delicate panelling of Gothic work, and the ribs of the columns spreading over the roof in rich tracery adorned with painted coats of arms of the Knights of the Garter,

and with the *rose en solid*, the favourite device of Edward IV. On the L. is the Beaufort Chapel, where the ingenious Marquis of Worcester is buried; on the R. the Urswick Chapel, so called from Dean Christopher Urswick.

The *Choir* is a masterpiece of rich and superb architecture, rendered still more imposing by the helmets, banners, and insignia suspended over the stalls of the Knights of the Garter. On the N. side of the altar are the three royal closets. That built by Henry VIII. for Anne Boleyn was many years ago painted to represent stone, but it has been restored again to its original condition. Under the Royal Closet is a screen of wrought iron made by Quintin Matsys, about 400 years ago. In the centre is a tombstone, bearing the names of the royal personages interred beneath; among others, Queen Jane Seymour, Henry VIII., and Charles I. For many years after the Restoration it was doubted whether the body of Charles I. had not been removed from the vaults of St. George's Chapel, Windsor; but this doubt was dispelled in 1813, when the coffin was opened in the presence of the Prince Regent and Sir H. Halford, who described the corpse very minutely, and the mark of the axe on the neck. In a second royal vault sleep most of the members of the House of Hanover. Beneath the matting, near the lectern, lay for twelve months the body of the late Prince Consort, and that of the Duchess of Kent. The E. window over the altar was inserted in 1863, in the place of one containing a representation, by West, of the "Resurrection of Our Lord," as a memorial of the late Prince Consort. It was presented by the Dean and Canons of Windsor, and was executed by Messrs. Clayton and Bell. It bears the following inscription:

In honorem Dei, et in desideratissimam Principis Memoriam, Hanc Fenestram Decanus et Canonici Mœrentes Ponenam Curaverunt, m.dccc.lxiii.

The central lights in each tier are devoted to subjects connected with the birth, resurrection, and glorification of Our Lord; and a number of Biblical subjects are introduced into the lights on either side. The reredos, immediately beneath the window, represents the "Ascension of Our Lord." The altar-cloth was the work of the Hon. Mrs. Wellesley.

MILE END

Scarcely less worthy of examination are the Rutland Chapel, the Hastings Chapel, the Chapter House, Henry VIII.'s Tomb-house, the Lincoln Chapel, the Oxenbridge, Aldworth, and the Bray Chapels.

The Horseshoe Cloisters, the Deanery, together with the Dean's Cloisters, and the Hundred Steps, form not the least interesting part of this portion of the Castle. The Horseshoe Cloisters, fronting the west end of St. George's, were erected for the "Petty Canons," according to Ashmole, and they were built in the shape of a fetlock, the favourite badge of Edward IV. They were erected *temp.* Henry VIII.

The Deanery of Windsor is generally held by a member of some titled family. During the last century it has been held by a Hobart, a Grenville, and a Wellesley. A Christopher Wren was Dean of Windsor in 1538.

At the eastern end of St. George's Chapel, from which it is separated by a covered passage leading to the Deanery and the Cloisters, stands the Albert Memorial Chapel, formerly known as Cardinal Wolsey's Chapel. The fabric is supposed to stand in part on the site of the original chapel, and this supposition, says the author of "Wright's Royal Guide to Windsor Castle, &c.," is based on the fact that at the back of the altar of St. George's Chapel are three doorways of a totally different and much earlier style of architecture than the chapel itself. The latter was begun by Edward III., and completed by Henry VII. and Henry VIII. Henry VII. had intended the structure as a burial-place or tomb for himself and his father Henry VI., whose remains now lie in the S. aisle of St. George's Chapel, at a spot indicated by a stone slab, and by that monarch's arms and badges on the window above, together with inscriptions setting forth his endowments to colleges and other institutions. He, however, altered his plans, and at once commenced building the chapel at Westminster now known as Henry VII.'s Chapel, with the intention of having the remains of his father exhumed and placed there, but from some cause or other this intention was never carried out. In Dean Stanley's "Memorials of Westminster" is given an account of the trial which took place during Henry VII.'s reign, in consequence of Westminster and Chertsey Abbeys having claimed the body of Henry VI., and the authorities of the former abbey undertook to pay Henry 500*l.* towards the cost of removing the body from Windsor. Chertsey

claimed the body on the ground that it had been taken thence by violence, and Westminster on the ground that the king had in his lifetime determined there to be interred. Westminster resisted, and the contest was adjudicated on by a council sitting at Greenwich, who awarded the sum above mentioned to Westminster. Subsequently there existed much doubt as to where the body of Henry VI. lay, but it is now quite clear that it was never removed from Windsor, and that it lies on the S. side of the choir, as stated above.

After the death of Henry VII., Cardinal Wolsey, who was then in royal favour, was presented by Henry VIII. with the chapel, and, as it is said, "with his own hands commenced for himself the erection of a magnificent tomb, the embellishment of which was entrusted to a Florentine sculptor." The original interior decorations of Wolsey's Chapel were by Verrio.

Wolsey expended large sums of money upon this memorial chapel; but after his fall from power it was seized upon and defaced. During the Long Parliament much of its ornamentation was broken up, and sold for the support of the castle garrison. Throughout the Commonwealth the chapel lay neglected. Charles II. proposed the reinterment of his father, with solemn funeral, and the erection of a monument to his memory in this chapel; but the design was never carried out, although he obtained a supply from Parliament for the purpose, and employed Sir Christopher Wren to draw up the plans. In the reign of James II. the chapel was repaired and "beautified," Verrio being entrusted with the carrying out of the latter portion of the work. Considerable damage, however, was shortly afterwards done to the building, several of the windows being likewise destroyed by the populace of Windsor, who had become indignant that the Mass should be again celebrated there whilst the Protestant service was being performed in St. George's Chapel. After this the chapel remained in a neglected condition for several years. In 1742, it was used as a free schoolhouse, and it was subsequently converted by George III. into a tomb-house for himself and his descendants. The royal vault, which lies beneath, contains the remains of about twenty members of the family of George III., and of others connected with him. In 1863 her Majesty Queen Victoria had a private entrance made at the back of the altar of St. George's Chapel, in order that

her Majesty might obtain admission to the vault at pleasure, and without any trouble. In the reign of George III. the roof of the chapel was an imitation of stone groining, but her Majesty after the death of the Prince Consort had this imitation taken down, and a light groined roof, covered with Salviati mosaic, substituted.

The interior of the chapel in its now completed form has a most elaborate appearance, the floor, walls, and roof being literally one mass of mosaic, worked out of the finest marbles and precious stones, and all the windows filled with stained glass. The windows were the work of Messrs. Clayton and Bell, who also claim the designing of the roof. Baron Triqueti was entrusted by her Majesty with the work of covering the bare walls with a series of marble pictures, depicting the "Resurrection of Christ."

The "tablets" are twenty-one in number, and the subjects, taken from the Old and New Testaments, are illustrative of "Fortitude," "Steadfastness and Truth," "Duty and Obedience," "Purity and Prudence," "Love, Righteousness and Piety." "The Man of Suffering," "The Body of Our Lord in the Tomb of Joseph of Arimathæa," "The Burial of Our Lord," "The Agony of Christ at Gethsemane," "The Lamentation of Jeremiah," "Wisdom and Science," "Eloquence and Harmony," and "Sincerity." In one of the tablets Jehoshaphat is represented as typifying the late Prince Consort in his successful endeavours to develop and extend the education of the people, and in his laying the foundation of schools and institutions which he endowed. The reredos is a magnificent specimen of carved work, in wood, marble, and precious stones; the chief portion of the work represents the "Ascension of Our Lord." The cenotaph, in the shape of an altar-tomb, occupies a position in the centre of the nave, a few yards in front of the altar. The sarcophagus is supported by angels at each of the four corners, those at the head bearing a shield, one representing the arms of the Queen, and the other those of the Prince. The angels at the foot are represented as mourning. There are three canopied niches on either side, and one at each end. In the niches on the S. side are figures representing "Charity" and "Science," the centre one having an angel bearing a shield, inscribed with the text, "I have fought the good fight; I have finished my course," Timothy ii. 6, 7. On the N. side the figures represent "Truth and Justice,"

the centre niche containing an angel bearing a shield with the same inscription as on the other side. The niche at the foot contains a figure of the Queen in the attitude of prayer, and at the head has a figure of Science weeping. Around the upper part the sarcophagus is richly ornamented with leaves and scrolls. The cenotaph is composed of several kinds of marble, the top slab, upon which the recumbent figure of the Prince rests, being of Pyrenean marble. The base is of black and gold Sicilian marble, and one of the angels at the corners is sculptured out of the same material, the other three figures being of statuary marble. The sarcophagus is surmounted by a marble effigy of the Prince, in recumbent position, clad in mediæval armour, with the head resting upon a pillow supported by two angelic figures. A model of "Eos," the Prince's favourite dog, lies at the foot of the effigy. Around the upper portion of the sarcophagus is carved the following inscription: "Albert, Prince Consort, born August XXVI, M.DCCCXIX, died December XIV, M.DCCCLXI, buried in the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore. 'I have fought the good fight: I have finished my course.'" Five of the stained-glass windows of the chapel, by Clayton and Bell, contain representations of the "Garden of Eden," the "Garden of Gethsemane," the "Garden of Joseph of Arimathæa," the "Passion of Our Lord," and the "Garden of the Blessed"; two of the windows are filled with the effigy figures and heraldic bearings of the ancestors of the Prince Consort, commencing as far back as 801.

Among the other objects of interest in connection with St. George's Chapel are the several tombs and memorials which are scattered round, of which we may specially mention the monument (designed by the late Prince Consort) to the Duchess of Gloucester, "erected by Queen Victoria as a tribute of respect to her beloved aunt, Mary, Duchess of Gloucester, in the year 1859;" the memorial to the Duke of Kent, at the western end of the S. side of the nave; the cenotaph to the Princess Charlotte, at the western end of the N. aisle of the nave; and the memorial of the late Prince Imperial of France, in the Braye Chapel. This last-mentioned monument consists of an elaborately sculptured base, surmounted by a recumbent figure of the prince in an undress artillery uniform. The head, uncovered, is supported by cushions embroidered with the imperial bee. The hands, crossed

upon the chest, clasp an unsheathed sword, the empty scabbard and gloves resting on the left side of the figure, with the spurs on the right, near the feet, which touch a helmet. The panels on the sides of the sarcophagus contain inscriptions recording the birth and death of the prince. The memorial has been executed in pure white statuary marble by the late Sir J. E. Boehm, sculptor.

The *Round Tower*, or Castle Keep, formerly called La Rose, which gives a certain cohesion and harmony to the mass of buildings composing the Castle, was planted on its lofty artificial mound by Edward III. It has been the prison of several illustrious persons: John King of France, David King of Scotland, James I. of Scotland, the chivalrous Earl Surrey, the Earls of Lauderdale and Lindsay, and the Marshal de Belleisle. The tower was raised 39 feet, and the flag-turret added, by Wyattville. In the little garden at its foot, James I. of Scotland first saw the Lady Jane Beaufort, whom he afterwards married.

The State Apartments are open to the public gratuitously on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, the hours of admission varying according to the season. From the 1st of April to the 31st of October they are open from 11 to 4, and from the 1st of November to the 31st of March from 11 to 3. Admission is by ticket, which can be obtained at the Lord Chamberlain's Office, near the Winchester Tower. A large part of the Castle is open daily to visitors; the Albert Memorial Chapel and the Round Tower are open on the above-mentioned days, but the latter is closed in winter.

Access is obtained to the State Apartments by passing through Norman Tower, which contains an elegant suite of rooms, and thence through a small lodge gate in King John's Tower, one of the most ancient portions of the Castle. King John's Tower was formerly used as a place of confinement for state prisoners, and the iron gratings still remain in several of the windows. It was "restored" a few years ago, with the rest of the building, by Sir Jeffery Wyattville. The entrance hall, on the R., is part of the old cloisters of the castle as erected by Edward IV. The roof is of chalk, and beautifully groined. To the L. of the entrance, the vestibule is of recent construction, for in the reign of George IV. it was an open courtyard. On passing to the flight of steps leading to the waiting-room the visitor crosses the Grand Staircase. In the waiting-

room there are a few interesting paintings, including a full-length portrait of the Queen, after Winterhalter.

The Audience Chamber, the first room shown to visitors, contains an allegorical painting by Verrio, in which Catherine, Queen of Charles II., is represented as Britannia, in a car drawn by swans. Besides a few portraits, this room contains three specimens of Gobelin tapestry, representing subjects in the history of Mordecai, as related in the Book of Esther.

The Vandyck Room derives its name from the fact that the whole of the portraits which adorn its walls are the work of that eminent painter, Anthony Vandyck. The Zuccarelli Room, too, is so called from its being the receptacle of some of the most important landscapes of the painter of that name. The State Anteroom has a painted ceiling by Verrio, representing a banquet of the gods; the carved work in this room, consisting of fish, flesh, fowl, and fruits, was executed by Grinling Gibbons. There are also in this room six panels of old Gobelin tapestry, of the latter half of the last century.

Crossing the Grand Staircase, and so on through the Grand Vestibule, in which is a fine marble statue of the Queen, by Boehm, the visitor next enters the Waterloo Gallery, one of the loftiest and most imposing apartments in the Castle. The walls of this chamber are hung with portraits of the different monarchs, warriors, or statesmen connected with the great European War which terminated with the Battle of Waterloo in 1815. About one half of the paintings are originals by Sir Thomas Lawrence; and, as a matter of course, the portrait of the Duke of Wellington holds the place of honour.

In the Grand Reception Room, which is ornamented in the style of the period of Louis XIV., are six pieces of Gobelin tapestry, ranging from 1744 to 1790, and representing scenes in the history of Jason and the Golden Fleece. St. George's Hall, which is next entered, is an apartment of enormous dimensions, being no less than 230 feet in length, 34 feet broad, and 34 feet in height. The ceiling and walls are studded with the shields and armorial bearings of the Knights of the Garter from the institution of the Order. The northern wall (opposite the window) is hung with portraits of the sovereigns of England from James I. to George IV. The throne occupies the eastern end of the hall.

The Guard Chamber, the walls of which are decorated with arms of ancient and modern manufacture, and several suits of armour, contains a colossal bust of Nelson, by Sir Francis Chantrey, mounted on a pedestal formed of a part of the foremast of the *Victory*. In this chamber is preserved an exquisitely wrought shield said to have been presented to Henry VIII. by Francis I. of France, at their interview on the Field of the Cloth of Gold. The Queen's Presence Chamber is the last of the State Apartments usually shown to visitors. Its walls are decorated with four pieces of Gobelin tapestry illustrative of scenes in the life of Queen Esther. The ceiling was painted by Verrio.

Besides the above-mentioned rooms, there are others to which the public are admitted on occasions when any of the foregoing are under repair. These are the Queen's Closet and the King's Closet, both of which contain fine pictures by the old masters, and other objects of interest; the Council Chamber, the Rubens Room, the Ante-Throne Room, and the Throne Room.

The Private Apartments occupy the eastern end of the Castle, and are not shown to the public. Orders, however, to view them are occasionally granted by the Lord Chamberlain or the Master of the Household, but only under very special circumstances; these orders are, in fact, almost entirely confined to foreign visitors of distinction. On the 19th of March, 1853, a fire broke out in the Prince of Wales's Tower, at the N.E. angle of the castle, and the damage was estimated at 6000*l*. The Library, with librarian's residence, occupies a suite of apartments overlooking the Terrace.

The Quadrangle is bounded on the N. by the State Apartments, on the E. and S. by the Queen's Private Apartments and those of the Royal Household, and on the W. by the Round Tower. The chief feature of the Quadrangle is an equestrian statue in bronze of Charles II.

The Royal Mews, the entrance to which is on the S. side of Castle Hill, was built by her Majesty between 1839 and 1842. The stables and other buildings cover a space of about four acres. The stud of horses is generally about ninety in number, and the carriages consist of landaus, driving phaetons, garden chairs, etc. The stables can be viewed daily from 1 to 2.30 p.m.

The *Terrace*, more than 2,500 feet in length, the finest walk of the kind in England, should be visited for the sake

of the magnificent prospects it commands. The spectator stands in the centre of a panorama of unequalled beauty. Look where he will, some object of deep and exciting interest meets his eye. Immediately beneath him, and seeming as if part of the great demesne, is Eton, with its not very "distant spires" and "antique towers," its "many associations of the present and the past, and fertile in hopes for the future. Farther on is Slough, where, in a comparatively humble dwelling, the Herschels held commune with the stars. Yet a little farther is the churchyard in which Gray lies,—that of Stoke Pogis—and still nearer Windsor is the ivy-covered tower of Upton, which is very picturesque, and bears traces of Norman workmanship. Iver, Langley, Bulstrode, Dropmore, Burnham, and Dorney—places honoured in history and cherished in letters—will be pointed out to those who examine the rich landscape in this direction. Looking eastward and southward, other historic sites and other examples of beautiful scenery come within his ken." Everywhere around him is hallowed ground. Everywhere the eye rests upon some object of poetic interest or scene of tranquil beauty, and roves delighted over a glorious prospect,

> "Of hills, and dales, and woods, and lawns, and spires,
> And glittering towns, and silver streams."

The *Home Park*, adjoining the castle, contains 400 acres, and is about four miles in circumference. It is studded everywhere with stately avenues of elms and groups of the finest trees, amongst them being some magnificent oaks. In this portion of the royal demesne, Shakespeare has laid many of the scenes in his "Merry Wives of Windsor." Here stood, till August, 1863, the celebrated oak of Herne the Hunter, the site of which has given rise to so much controversy, but which appears to have been satisfactorily settled by Mr. W. Perry, wood-carver to the Queen. The late Mr. Edward Jesse, too, in his "Gleanings in Natural History," published in 1834, endeavoured to prove that the tree in question was the real Herne's Oak of Shakespeare. In consequence of what Mr. Jesse had alleged, he was attacked in various publications on this subject, and, amongst others, by the *Quarterly Review*, in a notice on Loudon's "Arboretum." The attack on Mr. Jesse in the *Quarterly* was as follows: "Among his anecdotes of celebrated English oaks, we are surprised to

find Mr. Loudon adopting an apocryphal story about Herne's Oak, given in the lively pages of Mr. Jesse's 'Gleanings.' That gentleman, if he had taken any trouble, might have ascertained that the tree in question was cut down one morning by order of King George III., when in a state of great but transient excitement. The circumstance caused much regret and astonishment at the time, and was commented on in the newspapers. The oak which Mr. Jesse would decorate with Shakespearian honours stands at a considerable distance from the real Simon Pure. Every old woman in Windsor knows all about the facts." In reply to the above, Mr. Jesse wrote in September, 1863: "That a tree was cut down near the castle in consequence of a dispute the king had with his son, afterwards George IV., cannot be doubted. Sir Herbert Taylor informed me that he had heard the order given, but he assured me that the tree so felled was *an elm.* Indeed, the whole character of George III. would of itself be a sufficient guarantee that Herne's Oak was not cut down by his order. He always took a pride and pleasure in pointing it out to his attendants whenever he passed near it, and that tree was the one whose identity I am now advocating. It may also be doubted whether any monarch would venture to incur the odium and unpopularity of felling such a tree as Herne's Oak. To set the matter at rest, however," added Mr. Jesse, "I will now repeat the substance of some information given to me relative to Herne's Oak by the late Mr. Ingall, the highly respectable bailiff and manager of Windsor Home Park. He stated that he was appointed to that situation in the year 1798. On receiving his appointment, he was directed to attend upon the king at the castle, and on arriving there he found his Majesty, as he said, with 'the old Lord Winchelsea.' After a little delay, the king set off to walk in the park, attended by Lord Winchelsea, and Mr. Ingall was desired to follow them. Nothing was said to him until the king stopped opposite an oak-tree. He then turned to Mr. Ingall and said: 'I brought you here to point out this tree to you. I commit it to your especial charge, and take care that no damage is ever done to it. I had rather that every tree in the park should be cut down than this tree should be hurt. *This is Herne's Oak.*' Mr. Ingall added that this was the tree still standing near Queen Elizabeth's Walk, and it is the same tree I have referred

to and given a sketch of in my 'Gleanings in Natural History.' . . . I have also the authority of his Royal Highness the late Duke of Cambridge for stating that George III. always mentioned the tree lately blown down as Herne's Oak." In order that the tree might be readily recognised by strangers, Mr. Jesse had the following quotation from the "Merry Wives of Windsor" placed upon it:

> "There is an old tale goes, that Herne the Hunter,
> Sometime a keeper here in Windsor Forest,
> Doth all the winter time, at still midnight,
> Walk round about this oak."

Mr. Jesse was assured that after the inscription had been placed on the tree, some females, who had been in the habit of passing between Windsor and Datchet through the park at night, had been alarmed with the fear of meeting "Herne the Hunter." If this was so, it curiously shows the fact that superstition holds the same sway in this neighbourhood as it did when Shakespeare made Mr. Page say:

> "There want not many that do fear
> In deep of night to walk by this Herne's oak."

This venerable tree fell on the last day of August, 1863, and her Majesty, "in order to perpetuate its existence to future ages, unselfishly commanded its remains to be reduced to convenient forms and sizes for distribution and use," reserving for herself only a few pieces to be converted into various articles.

It has been calculated that Herne's Oak had, when it fell, reached the age of 650 years. Its site is now marked by a young oak planted by her Majesty. Affixed to the tree is a brass plate bearing the following inscription: "This tree was planted by her Majesty Queen Victoria, September 12th, 1863, to mark the spot where Herne's Oak stood. The old tree was blown down August 31st, 1863."

A large portion of the Home Park, on the N. side of the castle, was given in 1849 to the public in exchange for other lands and roads, and is now used as a recreation ground. Adelaide Cottage, in the Home Park, is a quiet and secluded little lodge, situated in the midst of a pretty

garden. It was a favourite resort of the late Queen Dowager.

In the enclosure attached to the cottage is another notable feature of the Home Park, namely, "Luther's Beech." The tree was raised, as may be seen from the tablet attached to it, from the beech near Altenstein, in the duchy of Saxe Meiningen, under which Martin Luther was arrested in 1521. It was planted by Queen Adelaide near the house in Bushey Park, and by her will was transplanted hither.

The "slopes," which were formerly part of the open park, were closed in by the late Prince Consort, and now consist of a picturesque rockery, interspersed with winding walks, grottos, summer-houses, gold and silver fish ponds, miniature cascades, &c. Rustic bridges are constructed from rock to rock, and a broad carriage drive from the road to the eastern front of the castle affords direct communication with the South-Western Railway station.

The Royal Kennels, together with a lodge used as the residence of the keeper of the park, are situated at a short distance from the Adelaide Cottage. The kennels were built by her Majesty in 1840. The Queen's Aviary, in the Home Farm, is a semi-Gothic building, consisting of a central pavilion with houses on either side for the nests. The collection of fowls is exceedingly rare and valuable. The Royal Dairy, said to be the most elegant and finest dairy in England, was built in 1852, from a design by the late Prince Consort. Adjoining the Dairy is the Dairy Farm, where the fine stock of shorthorns, Alderney cows, etc., are kept.

The Royal Farms are three in number, namely, the Norfolk and Flemish Farms, and the Prince Consort's Shaw, or "Model Farm." The last-mentioned farm is situated at Frogmore, and is considered perfect in every respect.

The *Great Park*, which is open to the public, is about 14m. in circumference, comprising about 1800 acres, and abounds in delightful walks, and in rich glimpses of forest scenery. It is studded with noble trees, and contains numerous thriving plantations. As Alexander Pope sings,

> "Thy forest, Windsor! and thy green retreats,
> At once the Monarch's and the Muses' seats."

The park is well stocked with herds of red and fallow

deer, together with white harts and Cashmere goats, etc. Oaks and beeches abound, many of them being known to date back seven or eight centuries. The Long Walk, a magnificent avenue of over 1000 trees, stretches from the grand entrance to the castle to the statue of George III., 3m. distant. The majority of the trees of which this avenue is composed are elms, but the Prince Consort, finding the soil better adapted for oak, commenced planting young trees of the latter description as the old elms died out, a system which is to be carried on until a complete avenue of oaks has been perfected. There is also Queen Anne's Ride, likewise 3m. in length, commencing at the end of King's Road and extending to the boundary of the park near Ascot Heath. The open space in the park near the junction of the two avenues has been frequently the scene of military manœuvres and inspections; and here her Majesty reviewed, in July, 1881, some 52,000 Volunteers, just twenty-one years after the beginning of the Volunteer movement.

It is remarkable that Windsor Park is the only one of the royal parks in which the expenses exceed the income. In 1880 the revenue was 5017*l.*, and the outlay 25,734*l.* Of this "enchanting region" we shall offer a more detailed description, condensed from the pages of Mr. James Thorne, in his "Rambles by Rivers."

Windsor Forest.

The changes which take place in the mere face of a country subjected to rapid improvements, even during the short period between boyhood and the mature age of an individual, were never more strikingly exemplified than in this beautiful district. In the year 1813 an Act of Parliament was passed for the enclosure of Windsor Forest. This, perhaps, was one of the largest enclosures ever effected under the power of one Act. There is a survey of this forest taken by Norden in 1607, which makes its circuit 77½m. This great extent was somewhat diminished in later years, for in a subsequent map by Rocque the circuit is given at 56m. At the time of the enclosure it comprised the whole of eleven parishes, and parts of six other parishes. The portion which was previously enclosed, and known by the name of the Windsor Great Park, was of small extent compared with the whole range

of the forest. The area of the park was less than 4000 acres, of which 2000 acres were under cultivation, while the open unenclosed forest amounted to 24,000 acres. With a few exceptions, such as part of the irreclaimable Bagshot Heath, the whole face of the country is now utterly changed.

Windsor as a royal residence was subject to alternations of favour and neglect. Pope, contrasting the depopulation ascribed to the Norman king with the subsequent encouragement of industry, says:

> "Succeeding monarchs heard the subjects' cries,
> Nor saw displeased the peaceful cottage rise."

In Windsor Forest we apprehend the "peaceful cottage" sprang up when the monarch's eyes were turned in another direction. After the battle of Culloden, William, Duke of Cumberland, had the office of Ranger to the Park bestowed upon him; and in the immediate neighbourhood of the Ranger's Lodge, since called Cumberland Lodge, he planted the barren hills and turned the swampy levels into a vast artificial lake.

George III. had different notions of the use of a park. He ploughed up all the land that was capable of culture, and there carried forward those systems of experimental industry which won for him the honourable name of Farmer George. George IV. neither planted nor farmed, but he spent about 200,000*l.* upon a thatched cottage near his great-uncle's lodge, which cottage was swept away as a nuisance in the succeeding reign.

During the last quarter of a century the great principle of utility has been asserting irresistible claims to this large district. The Crown obtained a fourth of the unenclosed land which was allotted by the Enclosure Act, and some 6000 acres have thus been added to the former bounds of Windsor Great Park. The Office of Woods and Forests has not let these lands lie neglected. Vast plantations have been formed of oak and fir; plains, where an army might have manœuvred thirty years ago, are covered with hundreds of thousands of vigorous saplings; heaths, where a few struggling hawthorns used to be the landmark of the traveller, are now one sea of pine.

Although the forest is different from what it was, it is yet a place of rare delight; only a fragment of it, it is true, but a noble one. Once in the forest district and you

are at no loss for scenery or objects of beauty and interest. Rough paths lead on every side to some wild woodland solitude, or broad sterile heath, or marsh green with a few osiers, or hilly ridge commanding a rich and various prospect; and then there are traces of roads and camps, the work of the conquerors of the earth, and spots where poets have lived, and scenes which they have celebrated, where the names of Pope and Shelley will recur to everyone's memory; of lonely heronries and rustic villages and outlying old English farmhouses.

But we cannot now wander at will over the forest; we must content ourselves with a stroll over that corner of it which now forms the Great Park; let us proceed by way of the Long Walk to *Virginia Water*. This Long Walk is certainly one of the grand features of Windsor. It is 3m. long, and consists of a broad central avenue of lofty elms, with a narrow avenue on each side. At the termination of it is Westmacott's statue of George III. An equestrian figure, 26 feet in height, raised upon a rocky pedestal of the same elevation and placed upon a considerable hill, is no common object; but to a stranger the statue is an inconsiderable thing when he looks from its site down the magnificent avenue which now leads to the castle gates, at a distance of more than 3m. It is indeed a wondrous approach to a noble pile.

Half a century ago the avenue was without an object. Shabby houses interposed between its commencement at Windsor and the castle. Now it leads directly to the gateway named after George IV., and thence to the grand entrance to the State Apartments. Shenstone has said with great truth, "The works of a person that builds begin immediately to decay, while those of him who plants begin directly to improve. In this respect planting promises a more lasting pleasure than building." Shenstone's own "Leasowes" is a striking example of the truth of this maxim: his temples and urns are gone to ruin; his saplings, oaks, and beeches have grown into magnificent trees.

It is the same at Virginia Water. Not far from Cumberland Lodge was a wild swampy district, whose waters drained into a basin of considerable dimensions, and then flowed into the Thames at Chertsey. The duke wanted occupation in his solitude. Tradition says that his amusements were not of the most creditable kind, and that a

paltry Chinese temple which still stands at the head of the lake was not wholly dedicated to "Contemplation, heavenly maid!" The royal butcher, however, was not entirely sensual and cruel. His vices were probably as much exaggerated by political hostility and popular scandal as his personal appearance. He had the merit of seeing the genius of Paul Sandby, whom he patronized as a draughtsman when he was a mere boy. Sandby was the landscape gardener of Virginia Water. He had large materials to deal with, and he used them with a bold and masterly hand. The name of the place was an ambitious one. The little lake and the gentle fir-clad banks have no real associations with the boundless forests across the Atlantic, whither the first adventurers of our Anglo-Saxon stock carried the power of civilization. We receive the name simply as expressive of silence and solitude amidst woods and waters. If we surrender ourselves to the genial influence of nature, we may find as deep enjoyment on the margin of this artificial lake and in the "alleys green" of these woods as the wandering traveller experiences on the banks of the Potomac or in the passes of the Apalachian Hills.

In the parks are situated Cumberland Lodge, Frogmore, Adelaide Lodge, the Royal Lodge of George IV., the Chapel Royal, the Queen's poultry-houses, and the dog-kennel. The royal gardens have a range of 920 feet of glass houses, and there are also two experimental farms.

Cumberland Lodge, once the seat of William, Duke of Cumberland, and now the residence of their Royal Highnesses Prince and Princess Christian of Schleswig-Holstein, is an extensive brick building, with battlemented roof and turrets at the angles. In November, 1869, the old lodge was completely destroyed by fire, with the exception of the most ancient portion. Several valuable pictures (the property of the Prince of Wales), dating back to 1792, were destroyed at the same time.

Near Cumberland Lodge are the Royal Schools, founded and endowed by her Majesty in 1845, for the purpose of educating the children of employés on the royal domains; the children, to the number of about 120, are partially clothed and boarded.

Frogmore is mentioned by name by Shakespeare in his "Merry Wives of Windsor"; it belonged of old to the

crown, but was sold during the Usurpation. It then became the seat of some of the natural children of Charles II., and ultimately of Sir Edward Walpole.

Frogmore is described in the "Complete Traveller," in 1794, as "a very handsome house built by Sir Edward Walpole, the gardens belonging to which are designed with great taste and laid out in the most elegant manner." It was purchased about 1800 by Queen Charlotte, who preferred it to the sombre state of Windsor Castle. It was subsequently occupied by the Princess Augusta and the Duchess of Kent, who died here in 1861. Since that date it has been tenanted by the Prince of Wales, whose eldest son, the lamented Duke of Clarence, was born there. On the completion of the Royal Mausoleum at Frogmore, the body of H.R.H. the Prince Consort was transferred thither, by command of the Queen, from St. George's Chapel.

The Royal Mausoleum is a cruciform edifice, surmounted with an octagonal dome, and is in the Romanesque style of architecture. The effigy of the Prince Consort lies on the left-hand side space of a monument in the centre of the chapel, and was the last work of the late Baron Marochetti. The sarcophagus is formed of two immense blocks of dark gray Aberdeen granite, and the walls of the mausoleum are lined with costly marbles, &c. A special commemoration service is held here annually on the 14th of December, the day of the death of the Prince Consort.

In front of the mausoleum is a monumental cross, erected by her Majesty, in memory of Lady Augusta, wife of Dean Stanley. The memorial, which is of granite, after the form of the early Christian crosses that may be occasionally met with in the West of Scotland, and about 7 feet high, bears the following inscription: "To the dear memory of Lady Augusta Stanley, fifth daughter of Thomas Bruce, seventh Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, this cross is erected by Queen Victoria in grateful and affectionate remembrance of faithful labours for thirty years in the service of the Queen, the Duchess of Kent, and the Royal Family. Born April 3, 1822. Died March 1, 1876."

The Duchess of Kent, the mother of her Most Gracious Majesty, is also interred at Frogmore. Her mausoleum is a circular structure standing on a mound of earth surrounded by an ornamental piece of water. The dome rests

on columns of polished granite, and in the centre is a statue of the late Duchess, by Theed.

The gardens at Frogmore contain about 32 acres, artificially laid out with mock antique ruins, hermitage, and temple.

Only a short distance from Frogmore is Beaumont Lodge, Old Windsor, which was successively the seat of the "Butcher" Duke of Cumberland, Warren Hastings, and Lord Ashbrook, by whom it was sold to the Jesuit body, who have turned it into a college. It is a large mansion in the modern English style, on the northern slope, commanding a fine view over Buckinghamshire and Middlesex.

This property occupies the extreme E. end of Berks; and the adjoining district of Englefield Green, Egham, and Cooper's Hill, so celebrated in the verse of Denham, is in Surrey.

An ornamental cottage, adjoining the churchyard of Old Windsor, was the favourite residence of the Princess Elizabeth, daughter of George III.

In the churchyard lie the remains of poor "Perdita," Mrs. Robinson, the actress, and the cruelly ill-used mistress of George IV.

Sunninghill Park (Gen. C. Crutchley) is one of the oldest domains in the E. of Berks. It was granted by Charles I. to the Carys, and was purchased in 1769 by the present family.

The *Windsor Road* to Reading and Oxford, after quitting the royal ville, strikes into a richly wooded country, much to be commended to the artist in search of picturesque "bits." Ascending St. Leonard's Hill, it crosses Waltham Common, leaving on its R. the glades of White Waltham and the meadows of Shottesbrooke, passing between Hurst and Ruscombe, and runs by way of Twyford into *Reading*.

Leaving Reading, it follows very closely the reaches of the Thames, opening up some beautiful vistas of river scenery, and of the wooded hills on the Oxfordshire bank. So it passes Purley and Pangbourne, Basildon and Streatley, still keeping in the Thames Valley, until it arrives at Wallingford (see p. 35). There it strikes to the westward, and joins the Wantage and Shrivenham Road, turning off again at about 55m. from London to Steventon,

and so, N.E., by way of Drayton to Abingdon. The road then passes through Nuneham and Iffley to Oxford.

B. Staines, *viâ* Reading, to Hungerford.

Leaving the Thames at Staines, we skirt the base of Cooper's Hill, in Surrey, made famous by the vigorous poem of Sir John Denham, and crossing Englefield Green, enter the dells and bosky dingles of Windsor Great Park. Through this lovely tract we wind for about 4m., and come out into the open country near *Winkfield* (26m. from London), where there is a picturesque church dedicated to St. Mary, containing a brass of 1630 to the memory of Thomas Montague, yeoman of the guard. Winkfield is an ancient parish, and is one of the largest in the county, embracing *Cranbourne* (which is now a separate ecclesiastical district), *Winkfield Row*, and parts of *Ascot*, *Bracknell*, and *Braywood*.

Cranborne Lodge, formerly the residence of the Duke of Cumberland, and of other members of the Royal Family, is made to do duty as a residence for a gamekeeper; on the roof is a tank for supplying water to Windsor Castle. The Lodge was built by Lord Ranelagh, paymaster of the forces in the reign of Charles II.

Hollygrove House, in this parish, is the residence of Captain Walter Campbell, Deputy Ranger of Windsor Great Park. The grounds were laid out by Repton.

In this parish is Fern Hill, the seat of the Lords Cremorne, and subsequently of Sir T. Metcalfe. It was tenanted for some years by Lord Maryborough, afterwards Earl of Mornington. It is now the residence of Sir John Errington, Bart.

The greater part of Winkfield parish, including the manor of Ascot, belonged of old to the Abbots of Abingdon, but the manor was purchased by George III. in 1780. In it is Foliejon Park, the seat of the Blanes, formerly known as Winkfield Park, and owned by the Hennes, Baronets. It was subsequently inhabited by the first Lord Ellenborough. On the road from Ascot to Bagshot, in this parish, there is an ancient Celtic entrenchment, with three barrows 64 feet in diameter.

From Winkfield we proceed to Warfield and Binfield.

In the first-named parish is Warfield Park, the seat of Lord Ormathwaite, whose great-grandfather, Mr. John

Walsh, having spent many years in India, settled down here late in life, purchasing the estate from the Nevilles and calling it Plassey House. It is now unoccupied.

Warfield Church is an interesting structure, built in the reign of Stephen, and served for centuries by the monks of Hurley. It is composed of a double nave and chancel and a short S. transept. It has a rood screen and loft in the N. aisle, two hagioscopes, and several niches for saints, all mutilated. The tower alone, which is of later date, remains in its original condition. The old church house exists in the churchyard, and contains a fine old parish chest full of deeds, documents, and churchwardens' account books, which have some curious entries. The church was restored by Mr. Street in 1876.

Binfield is a large and straggling parish, containing several parks and seats. It has a picturesque old church, containing a monument to Admiral Vernon. In the parish stands a house, once owned by Pope's father, and inhabited by the poet himself in his early years. The house long known as Pope's Lodge is now styled "Arthurstone." A small wainscoted room in the present mansion is still preserved as "Pope's Study"; and not far from the house there was, till lately, an inscription on a tree marking the poet's favorite spot, bearing the words, "Here Pope sung." The poet speaks of his father's house here as

> "My paternal cell,
> A little house, with trees a-row,
> And, like its master, very low."

In a grove of beech-trees, a mile or so from the church, the poet first "lisped in numbers," and his wanderings in the neighbourhood furnished him with material for his poem of "Windsor Forest."

Binfield Church, dedicated to All Saints, is in the Third Pointed style, probably *temp.* Edward III. It was enlarged in 1859, and has been recently beautifully decorated in memory of Archdeacon Randall, formerly rector here. In the chancel is a brass of Walter de Annefordhe, a former rector, dated 1335. Attached to the pulpit is an ancient hourglass-stand, bearing the arms of the Smiths and Farriers' Company, of London.

Binfield Manor (Miss Meynell Ingram) was in 1738 in the possession of the Pitt family. Binfield Park, formerly the seat and property of Mrs. Young, who also owned

Pope's Wood, at one time the favourite retreat of the great poet, was sold in 1877 to Lord Arthur Hill, and is now the residence of W. R. Cookson, Esq.

Here died in 1791 Mrs. Graham, better known by her former name of Mrs. Macaulay, the author of the "History of England." There is a monument to her memory in the church.

At 31½m. from London, the road crosses the Loddon and proceeds in a north-westerly direction to Reading. From thence it turns to the S.W., entering the fertile Valley of the Kennet, which, as well as the G.W.R., it accompanies to Hungerford. A very delightful ramble it affords to the wayfarer, taking him through most of the pleasantest scenery in Berks, and passing, in succession, the villages (most of which have already been described) of Sulhampstead, Woolhampton, Aldermaston, Thatcham, Newbury, Enbourne, Speen and Avington. From thence the road is continued across the Wiltshire border to Bath and Bristol.

C. Wallingford to Shrivenham.

For account of *Wallingford*, see p. 35. The road keeps a mile or so N. of the town, and then at *Brightwell* — so named from the clear springs in the chalk — turns to the W., passes close to Didcot, and then proceeds to *Harwell*, where there is a good Dec. cruciform church.

At *East Hendred* moulder the remains of a monastery called "Jesus of Bethlehem," consisting of an old stone chapel, with some fine Perp. windows, and the small monastic house attached to it. Attached to *Hendred House* is a Roman Catholic chapel which was in existence in the 13th century. The building is E.E., with walls of immense thickness. Hendred Church is a picturesque pile, retaining much of its ancient character.

Ardington was the estate of Robert Vernon, who bequeathed to the nation the valuable collection of paintings of the English School known as the Vernon Gallery.

At *Wantage* (see p. 82) we descend into the pleasant scenery of the Vale of the White Horse, a great wall of glittering chalk hills rising in the S., their sloping sides partly covered with sheepwalks, and partly with fields of waving corn. The villages of Challow, Childrey, Uffington, and Compton nestle in the pleasant shady hollows,

which are usually brightened by many clear and sparkling springs. It is through a countryside so full of quiet beauty that the road winds on its westward course to *Shrivenham*, following generally along the track—but at a distance of two or three miles—of the G.W.R.

D. Newbury to Abingdon (and Oxford).

Leaving Newbury, the road runs at the foot of the hill which the ruins of Donnington Castle crown, and keeps northwards to Chievely. It passes next to the R. of *Peasemore*, an interesting village, and descends into a valley "among bleak and barren downs" to the small market-place of *East Ilsley*, supposed by some antiquaries to be the site of the Saxon ville of *Nachededorne*, or the Single Thorn Tree—so called from a tree believed to have been an assembling-place of the Druids. Ilsley Church is mostly Nor., but has an E.E. chancel. It has a square embattled tower containing five bells, on one of which is the date 1012. The church was enlarged in 1845. The register dates from 1653. On every alternate Wednesday, from the Wednesday fortnight before Easter to the first Wednesday in July, a large sheep-market is held here. In this neighbourhood are several establishments for the training of race-horses, the downs being admirably adapted for that purpose. The town is thus described in an old quatrain:

> "Ilsley, remote amidst the Berkshire downs,
> Claims these distinctions o'er her sister towns;
> Far famed for sheep and wool, though not for spinners,
> For sportsmen, doctors, publicans, and sinners."

West Ilsley, 2m. from East Ilsley, lies in a deep valley in the centre of the downs. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is ancient and of E.E. architecture. It was enlarged in 1876. The rectory of West Ilsley was held in 1616 by Antonio de Dominis, Archbishop of Spalatro, who had become a convert to Protestantism and taken refuge in England. He, however, returned to his former faith, and repaired to Rome—not, however, to meet with the rewards he expected, but to be flung into the prison of the Inquisition, and die of a broken heart. He was succeeded by Goodman, Bishop of Gloucester, whom Charles I. visited here in 1644.

The road now crosses the Cuckhamsley Hills—traversed by an ancient road known as the Ridgeway—at an elevation of nearly 800 feet. Cuckhamsley Knob is a tumulus on the hilltop, 140 yards in circumference, supposed to be the place of sepulture of Cwichelm, King of the West Saxons, slain in a battle with Edwin, King of Northumbria. "Cuckhamsley" is a corruption (apparently) of Cwichelm's lawn, or lea. To the right rises *Blewberry Down*, sloping to the breezy expanse of Chilton Plain. According to local tradition, St. Birinus used to preach to his disciples and converts on the eminence named *Churn Knob*.

13m. from Newbury is *Chilton*, the chalky place, picturesquely situated. The church, dedicated to All Saints, is a small edifice of E.E. architecture; it consists of a chancel, nave, S. aisle, and an embattled tower.

15½m., the road, having descended the hills, crosses the great highway from London to Bath, now almost deserted, but once a thoroughfare of great importance. Near *Steventon* the G.W.R. spans the road, which soon after reaches Drayton. The fine old church, dedicated to St. Peter, is a Gothic edifice, consisting of chancel, nave, and an embattled tower. The chancel was rebuilt in 1872; it contains a stained-glass window, representing the "Crucifixion." "The font is plain round Norman; in the north wall of the 'ladye chapel' there is an old aumbry, and in the south wall a credence and piscina; there are two other piscinæ in the church. In digging a vault in the church in the year 1814 the workmen came upon some elaborate and beautiful old carvings in alabaster, representing the 'Betrayal,' the 'Scourging,' the 'Crucifixion' (now missing), and the 'Entombment of Our Saviour'; also the 'Adoration' and the 'Annunciation.' The churchyard cross was restored in 1871."—*Kelly*.

At 21m. from Newbury the road arrives at Abingdon, near the junction of the Ock with the Thames. At Marcham House, near Abingdon, lived the miser, John Elwes, who sat as M.P. for Berkshire from 1772 to 1774. It is now the property of the Duffield family.

Abingdon, 6m. from Oxford, has been already described (see p. 30).

The road from Abingdon to Oxford is crooked and dull. It rises out of a level plain at *Radley* (pop. 521), where the seat of Sir G. Bowyer has been converted into a celebrated Public School. It was founded in 1845.

by the late Professor W. Sewell. The church, which is mainly Perp., is small and pretty. The road ascends the slopes of Bagley Wood, on passing through which we obtain a fine view of the "distant spires and antique towers" of Oxford.

Kennington, 4m. N. from Abingdon, is a small village and ecclesiastical parish, formed in 1866 out of the parishes of Radley and Sunningwell; it is situated a little to the right of the highroad from Abingdon to Oxford. The church, dedicated to St. Swithin, is a small building in the Norman style; it was built in 1828, and consists of chancel, nave, and bell-cot.

E. Abingdon to Faringdon.

These 13 miles of road call for no particular description. The villages, occupying the northern portion of the county, accessible from this road are *Wytham*, where the Earl of Abingdon has a seat; *Fyfield*, famous for its gigantic elm, 36 feet in circumference; *Buckland*, the ancient seat of the Throckmortons; and *Pusey*, said to have been granted to the original family of that name by Canute, by tenure of a horn, which is still preserved at Pusey House, and bears the inscription—

"Kyng Knoude gave William Pewse
Ys horn to holde by thy Londe."

"The estate of Pusey, in the district of Faringdon, presents one of the best examples of high-class farming; while in the Eastern Division the model farms in the district of Wokingham, the property of John Walter, Esq., may be referred to as the best specimens of the recent improvements in agriculture."—*Encyclopædia Britannica*, article "Berkshire."

F. Hungerford, *viâ* Wantage, to Oxford.

The road crosses the Kennet, and strikes north-eastward to *Great Shefford*, where it crosses the Lambourne. Through a bleak and barren country it proceeds to the old earthwork of *Letcombe Castle*, and through a gap in the downs descends by way of *Letcombe Regis*, famous for its Norman church, to *Wantage* (see p. 82). The country now grows richer, is enlivened with clear, glittering streams

and fresh green meadows, dotted by prosperous farms, whose thatched barns nestle complacently in the shadow of venerable elms. Thus we go on our way rejoicing, and passing near *Tubney* and *Besselsleigh*, cross the historic Isis, and enter Oxford by the Seven-bridge Road.

Short and pleasant Tours

can be made in and through parts of Windsor Forest by the following routes:

1. Windsor to Wokingham.

Clewer, past cavalry barracks at Spittal, leave St. Leonard's Hill on right, and Forest Hill and the Great Park on left, up High Standing Hill, to North Street, Winkfield. Thence by Ascot Place and Winkfield Church to Maiden's Green, where turn to the left to Warfield Grove, Warfield Park, and Hollyspring to Bracknell.

From Bracknell we can proceed to Windsor by rail or road across Priestwood Common to the *Golden Acorn*, thence to Frog Hall Green, and so on to Wokingham.

2. Twyford to Bracknell.

Stanlake on left (formerly the Aldworks, now E. Sturges, Esq.), Haines Hill on right (T. C. Garth, Esq.), skirt Billingbear on left (C. T. Crews, Esq.), mostly in Lawrence Waltham parish, come to Forest Lodge on right (Sir Warwick Morshead). Binfield Church, Binfield Park, and Binfield Manor (Miss Meynell Ingram, formerly Sir F. Wilder), and so by Priestwood Common to Bracknell.

3. Bracknell to Maidenhead.

By Wick Hill and Newell Green, past Warfield Hall (formerly Sir John Malcolm, now General Sir Charles Brownlow), thence by Jellott's Hill to Hawthorn Hill, where we obtain fine views over Berks, Oxon, and Bucks. This is a favourite meet of the Queen's hounds. Cruchfield House (Mrs. Henderson) on right. Thence to Tuckers End, Hollyport, through Bray Wick, and by Cannon Hill, and so to Maidenhead.

4. Maidenhead to Wokingham.

By Boyne Hill, Cox Green, Heywood Lodge on left (B. D. Hall, Esq.), Ockwells (an old manor-house, now a farm, where is a fine dining-hall), and White Waltham and Shottesbrooke (both already described). Thence through Lawrence Waltham by Sill Bridge to Haines Hill (T. Garth, Esq.) and Billingbear, and past the new Warren House (a favourite meet of hounds), and so to Wokingham.

5. Wokingham to Twyford.

Past Matthew's Green to Bill Hill Common, leaving on right Bill Hill (Mrs. Leveson-Gower); across Line's Common to Hurst Grove (Mrs. Finch). Thence past Hurst Park, the house of which is pulled down, to Whistley Green, and so to Twyford.

6. Maidenhead to Windsor.

Turning out of Maidenhead at St. Ive's Place first to Bray village, leaving church on left and Bray Wick on right. Then past Down Place, Water Oakley, Oakley Court, and Surley Hall, and so past Clewer Lodge, and through Clewer to Windsor.

7. Windsor to Twyford and Reading.

Passing near the Convent at Clewer, we reach Dedworth, thence to Oakley Green and Fyfield House. Leave New Lodge (Colonel Van de Weyer) on the left. Cross Bray Common (newly enclosed), come to Redstone Farm; thence by Brick Bridge, Surlock Street, Haines Hill and Stanlake to Twyford. Here we join the Bath highroad, and, leaving Sonning and Holme Park on the right, pass Earley Court, and so enter Reading.

8. Wokingham to Reading.

First to Emmbrook, and thence by the lodges of Bearwood to Loddon Bridge, then leaving Bulmersh on right and Maiden Erleigh on left, pass the site of Whiteknights, formerly the seat and gardens of the Duke of Marlborough, and enter Reading.

9. Swallowfield to Reading.

Here we travel outside the bounds of Windsor Forest, but through English scenery. Entering the county at Risely Mill, we leave Swallowfield village and Place (Sir G. Russell) on the right. Then, crossing Spencer's Wood Common, we come to Three Mile Cross, famous as the home of Miss Mitford. Thence along a dull and flat road, below the higher grounds of Shinfield, we enter Reading, where the Kennet is crossed. This route may be varied by passing through the park at Swallowfield, and so to Arborfield Bridge, the School Green, Shinfield, and so, leaving Whiteknights on the right, into Reading.

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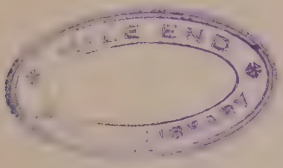

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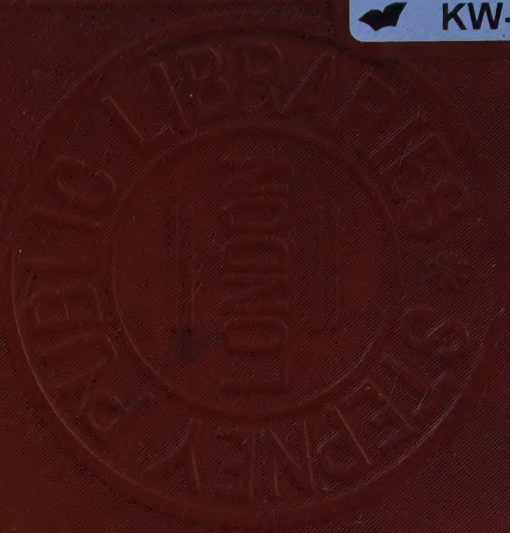
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